

## Other Things A Pharmacist Can Do to Increase Access to Emergency Contraception

- 1 Make sure you have EC in stock.
- 2 Post a sign in your pharmacy that says “Plan B® Emergency Contraception Sold Here.”
- 3 Post a sign in your pharmacy that says “We bill Medicaid for Plan B® Emergency Contraception.”
- 4 Talk to your colleagues about Plan B® Emergency Contraception.
- 5 When women get prescriptions for birth control pills that can also be used as Emergency Contraception, be sure to include information on their back-up options.
- 6 Learn more about Emergency Contraception through an on-line training program at [www.pharmacyaccess.learnsomething.com](http://www.pharmacyaccess.learnsomething.com).
- 7 Find out about Pharmacy Access a.k.a. Collaborative Practice Agreements and Emergency Contraception at [www.go2ec.org](http://www.go2ec.org).



Increasing Access to Plan B®  
Emergency Contraception for  
Low-Income Women

Produced by NARAL Pro-Choice Washington Foundation  
[www.ProChoiceWashington.org](http://www.ProChoiceWashington.org)



**You Can Increase Access to Emergency Contraception and Reduce Unintended Pregnancies**

Washington State's pharmacists have been leaders in the work to make Plan B® Emergency Contraception available to women and we want to thank you for your commitment to reproductive health.

Pharmacists are a critical link between the availability of Plan B® Emergency Contraception (a.k.a. the "Morning-After Pill", or "EC") and the women who need it. Information in this brochure may assist you in providing access to EC particularly for low-income women.

As you know, Plan B® Emergency Contraception, a concentrated dose of birth control, can prevent unintended pregnancy if taken as soon as possible within 72 hours of unprotected sex followed by a 2nd dose 12 hours later. Use of Plan B® Emergency Contraception will not interfere with an established pregnancy. Because of the short time frame in which the medication is effective, it is critical that women who need it can obtain it. Please refer to package inserts for Plan B® Emergency Contraception for further information. Links to helpful websites are on the back of this brochure.

On August 24, 2006, the FDA approved OTC sales of Plan B® Emergency Contraception for adult women only, while keeping it a prescription product for women younger than 18. In this new 'dual-label' environment, women 18 years of age and older can buy Plan B® Emergency Contraception directly from the pharmacy upon the presentation of a valid government-issued ID.

Women under 18 years of age can get a prescription for the pills from any physician and many other reproductive health care providers. However, in Washington State there is a policy that allows women under the age of 18 to obtain Plan B® Emergency Contraception without a prescription at pharmacies with Pharmacy Access a.k.a. Collaborative Practice Agreements.

**Who Needs a Prescription to Obtain Plan B® Emergency Contraception?**

**Who Can Obtain Plan B® Emergency Contraception Over-the-Counter?**

**Washington State Medicaid and Plan B® Emergency Contraception**

Washington State Medicaid (HRSA) reimburses specific over-the-counter (OTC) family planning drugs, devices and supplies without a prescription to any currently eligible HRSA clients. Plan B® Emergency Contraception may be dispensed without a prescription for females 18 and older. For female clients younger than 18, HRSA will reimburse

for Plan B® if the client has a prescription. It is a common practice to dispense two doses of EC, especially for clients using barrier methods. However, pharmacists are instructed to dispense the quantity requested by the client.

Pharmacies that are members of, or subcontract with, managed care plans must bill the prescription cost to the plan. If the pharmacy is not contracted with the client's managed care plan, then the pharmacy may bill HRSA on a FFS (fee for service) basis for OTC family planning drugs and supplies, including Plan B® Emergency Contraception for female clients who are 18 or over.

HRSA also reimburses pharmacies for providing counseling when a pharmacist with an Emergency Contraception protocol approved by the Board of Pharmacy prescribes Plan B® Emergency Contraception.

For details on the above information, please refer to the current HRSA Prescription Drug Program found on the website below:  
[http://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/maa/Download/BillingInstructions/Prescription%20Drug%20Program/Prescription\\_Drug\\_Program\\_BI.pdf](http://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/maa/Download/BillingInstructions/Prescription%20Drug%20Program/Prescription_Drug_Program_BI.pdf).