

Prevent unplanned pregnancies: help patients plan ahead and be prepared.

Frequently asked questions for healthcare providers.

How effective is Emergency Contraception?

- **Progestin-only Emergency Contraception Pills (ECPs) reduce the risk of pregnancy by 89%;**
- Combined ECPs, including both progestin and estrogen, reduce the chance of pregnancy by 74%;
- A single dose of ECPs, when used perfectly, is not as effective as other methods of ongoing contraception when used perfectly (1).

How long after unprotected sex can emergency contraception prevent pregnancy?

Up to 120 hours. Emergency Contraception Pills are more effective the earlier they are taken, and are *most* effective within the first 24 hours after unprotected sex.

Is Emergency Contraception now available without a prescription?

Yes, but only to women and men 18 and over. The FDA approved the conditional “over the counter” status in August of 2006. FDA regulations allow men to purchase the medication, though not all pharmacies or pharmacists will sell it men.

Are there any contraindications or medical reasons NOT to offer ECPs?

No. There are no known medical conditions that preclude use of ECP. The only contraindication to ECP use is confirmed pregnancy, simply because ECP will not work if a woman is already pregnant (1).

What other medications can I prescribe along with the Emergency Contraception Pills?

Anti-nausea medication. However, risk of nausea with Plan B is only 18%.

What is an “advance prescription” for Emergency Contraception Pills and what do the national medical bodies advise?

An advance prescription is a prescription for ECP that is offered by a healthcare provider *before* a patient actually is in need of the medication.

In their practice bulletins and policy statements, the American Medical Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the American Academy of Pediatrics all suggest that providers offer advance prescriptions for ECP to interested patients who would need a prescription to obtain the medication.

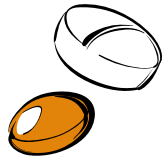
1. Trussell, J. et al. The role of emergency contraception. American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. (2004) Vol 190, S30-8
2. Weismiller, D.G. Emergency Contraception. American Family Physician. Vol 70, Num 4, August 2004. pp. 707-714.
3. North Carolina Board of Pharmacy website: <http://www.ncbop.org/news.htm>



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Twenty-one oral contraceptives can be used for emergency contraception in the United States.

Brand	Company	First Dose	Second Dose (12 hours later)	Ethinyl Estradiol per Dose (µg)	Levonorgestrel per Dose (mg) ^c
Plan B	Barr/Duramed	2 white pills		0	.75
Alesse	Wyeth-Ayerst	5 pink pills	5 pink pills	100	0.50
Aviane	Barr/Duramed	5 orange pills	5 orange pills	100	0.50
Cryselle	Barr/Duramed	4 white pills	4 white pills	120	0.60
Enpresse	Barr/Duramed	4 orange pills	4 orange pills	120	0.50
Jolessa	Barr/Duramed	4 pink pills	4 pink pills	120	0.06
Lessina	Barr/Duramed	5 pink pills	5 pink pills	100	0.50
Levlen	Berlex	4 light-orange pills	4 light-orange pills	120	0.60
Levlite	Berlex	5 pink pills	5 pink pills	100	0.50
Levora	Watson	4 white pills	4 white pills	120	0.60
Lo/Ovral	Wyeth-Ayerst	4 white pills	4 white pills	120	0.60
Low-Ogestrel	Watson	4 white pills	4 white pills	120	0.60
Lutera	Watson	5 white pills	5 white pills	100	0.50
Nordette	Wyeth-Ayerst	4 light-orange pills	4 light-orange pills	120	0.60
Ogestrel	Watson	2 white pills	2 white pills	100	0.50
Ovral	Wyeth-Ayerst	2 white pills	2 white pills	100	0.50
Portia	Barr/Duramed	4 pink pills	4 pink pills	120	0.60
Quasense	Watson	4 white pills	4 white pills	120	0.60
Seasonale	Barr/Duramed	4 pink pills	4 pink pills	120	0.60
Seasonique	Barr/Duramed	4 light blue-green pills	4 light blue-green pills	120	0.60
Tri-Levlen	Berlex	4 yellow pills	4 yellow pills	120	0.50
Triphasil	Wyeth-Ayerst	4 yellow pills	4 yellow pills	120	0.50
Trivora	Watson	4 pink pills	4 pink pills	120	0.50

Plan-B is the only dedicated product specifically marketed for emergency contraception in the United States. Preven, a combined ECP that was less effective than Plan B, is no longer available on the US market. All of the combination oral contraceptives listed above have been declared safe and effective for use as Emergency Contraception Pills by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

For more information about emergency contraception, visit the Office of Population Research at Princeton University online at <http://ec.princeton.edu>



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