

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

*Did you know . . .
that more than half of pregnancies in
this community are UNPLANNED!*

**As a health care provider, you can encourage
planned pregnancies by:**

- **Educating about birth control and emergency contraception.**
- **Preparing sexually active patients to handle a birth control emergency.**
- **Offering advance prescriptions for emergency contraception pills to interested female patients 17 years old and younger.**

The **American Medical Association** encourages physicians and other health care professionals to:

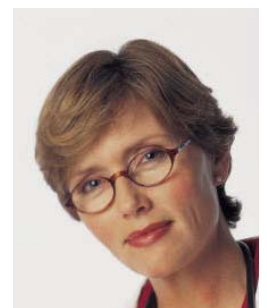
- Play a more active role in providing education about emergency contraception by discussing it as part of their routine contraceptive counseling.
- Offer to write advance prescriptions for emergency contraception pills for their patients under 18 years old.
(AMA policy H-75.985 Access to Emergency Contraception)

The **American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists** recommends physicians can improve access by:

- Providing advance prescriptions or supply of emergency contraception.
- Prescribing by EC phone without requiring an office visit.
(ACOG Practice Bulletin number 69 - December 2005)

Educational messages for use with patients:

- Emergency contraception (EC) pills are best used as a **back up** to another of birth control.
- EC reduces the risk of pregnancy for **up to 5 days** after unprotected sex, but is most effective within the first 24 hours.
- EC does **NOT** protect from sexually transmitted infections or AIDS.



Forsyth County
Infant Mortality Reduction Coalition
www.HelpOurBabies.org

www.HealthyCommunity.ws

