



Want to Provide Emergency Contraception (EC) Directly to Women via the Pharmacy Access Model?

It takes only 4 quick steps!

EC (also known as the “morning-after pill” or Plan B) is a safe and effective way to prevent pregnancy after unprotected sex or birth control failure. EC can be taken up to 5 days after sex, but is more likely to work the sooner it is taken. EC contains the same hormones as birth control pills and WILL NOT cause an abortion — EC IS NOT RU-486 and will not interrupt an already established pregnancy.

In August 2006, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Plan B[®] EC for over-the-counter (OTC) sales for consumers ages 18 and older. In April 2009, it reduced the age limit for EC OTC access to age 17 and older. Pharmacy access is still an important clinical service in the prevention of unintended pregnancy. This service is especially crucial for teens under 17, women without identification or enrollees in state-funded health insurance programs requiring a prescription for EC.

Step 1- Get Certified

Under California law, pharmacists providing EC via the pharmacy access model must complete a minimum of **one hour** approved continuing education training on emergency contraception (EC).

- Visit www.pharmacyaccess.learnsomething.com to take the training program and be eligible to initiate EC drug therapy in the pharmacy.
- Take the exam, then download and print a copy of your certificate.

Step 2- Obtain a Protocol

After completing the online training program, pharmacists must obtain a protocol to provide EC directly to women. The CA State Board of Pharmacy and the Medical Board have approved a statewide protocol. Pharmacists may use the statewide protocol or use a collaborative protocol signed by a physician.

- Visit http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/OLFHQVLQJ/ec_protocol.pdf to download a copy of the statewide protocol **OR**
- Call Pharmacy Access Partnership at (510) 272-0150 to obtain a collaborative protocol **(*NOTE- using a collaborative protocol allows you to bill private insurance, Family PACT, and Medi-Cal for EC by using the collaborating physician’s DEA number).**

Step 3- Obtain State-Mandated Fact Sheets

Pharmacists must provide each recipient of EC with a standardized “Fact Sheet” that has been approved by the CA State Board of Pharmacy.

- Visit <http://pharmacyaccess.org/ECServiceMaterials.htm> to view and print these fact sheets, available in 11 different languages.

Step 4- Promote Your Services

Register your EC Pharmacy on the consumer EC web site, www.EC-Help.org, so women know they can get EC directly through pharmacy access in your pharmacy. Every pharmacy that lists will receive a FREE starter kit of promotional materials.

- Download the registration form at <http://pharmacyaccess.org/pdfs/PharmacyRegForm.pdf>
- Fax (510) 272-0285 with a copy of your EC Training Certificate.

For more information about providing EC pharmacy access services in your pharmacy, www.PharmacyAccess.org or call 510-272-0150.