



On August 24, 2006, the FDA approved Plan B, the dedicated emergency contraception (EC) product, for over-the-counter (OTC) sales to consumers 18 and older. The OTC product will be available starting November, 2006. Plan B will be kept behind the pharmacy counter and not on store shelves. Consumers will need to show proof of age to get Plan B.

Emergency contraception (EC) is a safe and effective way to prevent pregnancy after unprotected sex. EC can be used up to 5 days after unprotected sex, but the sooner it is used, the more effective it is. EC is not the abortion pill (mifepristone or RU486) and will not harm an already existing pregnancy.

What options will consumers have to access EC?

Women ages 18 and older with ID:

- Plan B is authorized for OTC sale in pharmacies and will be available beginning in November, 2006
- From a local doctor or health care provider. Go to www.hcet.org/wfpp/clinics.asp for a list of family planning clinics in Wisconsin.
- Medicaid (including the Family Planning Waiver) will only cover Plan B with a prescription from a health care provider or specially trained pharmacist. For other insurance, check with the insurance company to determine whether a prescription is required for coverage.

Women under 18 or women without ID:

- From a local doctor or health care provider. Go to www.hcet.org/wfpp/clinics.asp for a list of family planning clinics in Wisconsin. You can also refer to ec.princeton.edu/get-ec-now.html to search for a list of EC Providers in Wisconsin.
- Teens in Wisconsin are guaranteed confidential family planning services, including EC.
- Through the WFPRHA EC Hotline at **1-866-EC-FIRST**.

Men:

- Men ages 18 and older can purchase Plan B OTC in pharmacies beginning in November, 2006. Men under 18 do NOT have the option to obtain a prescription for Plan B, nor to get it through pharmacy access.

Is EC safe for teens under 18?

- Yes. There is no medical reason to restrict access to EC for teens.
- Research shows that easier access to EC does NOT increase sexual risk taking and does NOT reduce the use of regular ongoing birth control.

Why did the FDA keep Plan B a prescription drug for teens under 18?

- There is NO medical reason for keeping Plan B a prescription drug for teens under 18.
- Leading medical organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists agree that access to Plan B should not be restricted by age.

When will Plan B be available for sale OTC?

- The manufacturer has indicated that they will begin shipping Plan B in the new OTC packaging beginning Nov. 1, 2006.
- Meanwhile, women with a prescription for EC can get it filled at any pharmacy.

Who can dispense EC OTC?

Plan B will be kept behind the pharmacy counter; pharmacy or store staff with access to these products will be able to provide Plan B to customers 18 and older with proper identification.

If a customer is purchasing Plan B OTC, do I need to provide a consultation and EC fact sheet?

When a customer purchases Plan B OTC, NO consultation is necessary. There are NO required forms or requirements to provide a fact sheet on EC.

Will Plan B, as an over-the-counter product, be covered by insurance plans?

- It is not yet determined if insurance plans will cover Plan B as an OTC product.
- Typically when products switch from prescription to OTC, they are no longer covered.

How much will Plan B cost as OTC?

- The price has not yet been determined.
- Currently, the prescription price ranges from \$20-\$40.

What else can pharmacists do to increase access and awareness to EC among women in the community?

- Stock Plan B.
- Let patients know that EC is available at the pharmacy.
- Educate store staff about EC availability.

How can I find more information?

Visit the following online resources for providers:

- **Directory of EC Providers** www.not-2-late.com
- **Pharmacy Access Project** www.pharmacyaccess.org
- **Direct Access to EC** www.go2ec.org
- **Website for Plan B** www.go2planb.com
- **Health Professionals for Reproductive Care** www.supportwomenshealth.org

Refer patients to the following online resources:

- **Not-2-Late.com** www.not-2-late.com
- **Family Planning Clinics** www.psssst.org
- **Planned Parenthood** www.ppwi.org
- **Community Health Centers** www.wphca.org
- **EC Hotline** www.ezec.org
- **STD Clinics** www.irc-wisconsin.org
- **Domestic Violence Services** www.wcadv.org
- **Sexual Assault Services** www.wcasa.org