



The Massachusetts Emergency Contraception Network

February 2007 Newsletter

About this newsletter:

This newsletter is prepared and distributed by members of the Massachusetts Emergency Contraception Network. To contribute a news item or remove your name from the newsletter circulation list, please write to: Stacie@prochoicemass.org. We reserve the right to check and edit items as appropriate.

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MASSACHUSETTS

1 Massachusetts to Create Statewide Referral Hotline and Website for EC

Massachusetts will create a statewide referral hotline and website to help women and men access EC and related services, including family planning programs, STD testing and treatment, and rape crisis counseling. The Department of Public Health will be contracting with a non-profit organization to provide these referral services and publicize their availability. The funding for this hotline was secured as part of the fiscal year 07 state budget, however then Gov. Romney cut the funding before leaving office. Gov. Patrick restored the funding after taking office in January and the Department of Public Health will be awarding a contract soon.

For more information, contact Stacie at stacie@prochoicemass.org or 617-556-8800 x15.

AROUND THE US

1 National Women's Law Center Releases Report on Pharmacy Refusals

The National Women's Law Center released a recently updated publication titled "Don't Take 'No' for an Answer: A Guide to Pharmacy Refusal Laws, Policies and Practices," in which they review current pharmaceutical laws and policies in different states regarding the dispensation of contraception, including emergency contraception.

For more information, please see:

http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=42510

2 A Study Finds that Some Doctors Do Not Tell Patients About Treatments They Oppose

A study done at the University of Chicago found that 8% of physicians "do not feel obligated to present all options to patients" and 18% do not feel any moral obligation to refer patients to other physicians. The study was prompted by reports of health care providers who refuse to provide certain types of care, including emergency contraception and birth control, due to moral beliefs.

For more information, please see:

http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=42793

3 The Tampa Police Department to Change Policy That Resulted in the Arrest of an Alleged Rape Victim.

The Tampa Police Department plans to change its arrest policy after a rape victim was arrested on an outstanding warrant and claimed that she was denied the second dose of emergency contraception while in jail. This claim has prompted the Tampa Police Department to modify its policy to "allow the shift commander to have enough discretion to make a decision that is in the best interest of the victim and the department."

For more information, please see:

<http://www.baynews9.com/content/36/2007/1/30/219595.html?title=Tampa+PD+changes+policy+on+arresting+victims>

WORLDWIDE

1 Chile Will Resume Its National Program to Provide Free EC

On January 31st, the Chilean government announced that it would resume its program to provide free emergency contraception to girls and women over the age of 14. The original program was blocked by the Chilean Constitutional Court because it was seen as unconstitutional because of its method of implementation. The new decree, which President Michelle Bachelet signed on January 30th, includes an amendment that says that teenagers that request EC will have to attend counseling.

For more information, please see:

http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=42647

The Massachusetts Emergency Contraception Network provides a forum for those interested in improving access to and knowledge of emergency contraception - including medical providers, community organizations, and government agencies - to share ideas, coordinate resources, and maximize the impact of our work on the shared public health goal of reducing unintended pregnancies.

For more information concerning the Massachusetts Emergency Contraception Network please contact 617 556 8800 x15, or stacie@prochoicemass.org.