



Health Center Policy: Emergency Contraception

Created by the Massachusetts Emergency Contraception Network

Health Center Policy on Emergency Contraception:

- ✍ Our health center is dedicated to improving access to emergency contraception in our community.
- ✍ Our health center offers emergency contraception in a timely and effective manner to adult and adolescent women who have had unprotected intercourse, who do not want to become pregnant, and who request that emergency contraception be provided.
- ✍ Emergency contraception is discussed and advance prescriptions are offered during routine contraceptive visits.

Practice Guidelines for Health Center Staff:

Front desk staff and Answering service

- ✍ Callers inquiring about emergency contraception should be informed that it is available through the health center. If caller is not already a patient, they should be given information on how to become a patient and triaged promptly for evaluation for emergency contraception.
- ✍ Since emergency contraception is more effective the sooner it is administered, all patients requesting emergency contraception should be triaged by a nurse or physician as soon as possible.

Nurses/Family Planning Counselors

- ✍ Patients requesting emergency contraception should be triaged to a prescribing provider as soon as possible if eligible for treatment.
- ✍ Education and instructions for use should be offered during all routine contraceptive counseling visits.

Prescribing Providers

- ✍ A patient requesting emergency contraception should be evaluated as soon as possible. If the provider is unable to prescribe for any reason, the patient needs to be referred to another provider at the health center without delay.
- ✍ If a patient is determined eligible for emergency contraception, she should be provided with the medication, given a prescription, or a prescription called to the patient's pharmacy as soon as possible.
- ✍ Refer to screening protocol for emergency contraception for specific prescribing guidelines.
- ✍ Education and advance provision/prescription should be offered during all routine contraceptive counseling visits.

On-call staff

- ✍ Patients requesting emergency contraception should be evaluated by phone as soon as possible (see "Prescribing Tool for Emergency Contraception" for prescribing guidelines).
- ✍ If the patient is determined to be eligible for emergency contraception, a prescription should be called to the patient's pharmacy as soon as possible.