



## **EC Information for Pharmacists**

### **Help your patients back up their birth control with EC**

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 RU-486).

**Massachusetts law now allows pharmacists to dispense EC under a standing order from a physician to women who come into the pharmacy without a prescription.**

**What are the benefits of providing EC services in a pharmacy? Why should pharmacists provide pharmacy access to EC under the Mass. law if it's now over-the-counter (OTC)?**

- Pharmacy access is an important service in the prevention of unintended pregnancy.
- It allows pharmacists to offer expanded access to EC for women who are not eligible for OTC access, including women under 18 or those without proper ID.
- Providing pharmacy access means that you will not have to turn women away from your pharmacy who are seeking EC to prevent an unintended pregnancy.

### **Signing up to participate is as easy as 1 – 2 – 3!**

#### **1) Complete a training program**

- Online training available through Northeastern University at [http://www.neu.ceedutest.com/ce\\_ec/](http://www.neu.ceedutest.com/ce_ec/).
- Or go to the Massachusetts EC Network website at [www.massECnetwork.org](http://www.massECnetwork.org) for information on live training programs.

#### **2) Obtain a standing order**

- The EC Network can connect you with a physician who is available to sign standing orders. Please contact Stacie Garnett at [stacie@prochoicemass.org](mailto:stacie@prochoicemass.org) or 617-556-8800 x15.
- A generic standing order is also available at [http://mass.gov/dph/dhcq/emergency\\_contraception.htm](http://mass.gov/dph/dhcq/emergency_contraception.htm)

#### **3) File with the Board of Pharmacy and EC Network**

- Send a copy of your signed standing order to the Board of Pharmacy by certified mail at 239 Causeway St. Ste 200, Boston, MA 02114.
- Fax the EC Network website registration form to 617-338-2532 to indicate your pharmacy participates and to be listed on the EC Network website.
- You are ready to dispense!

#### **How can I find more information?**

- Go to the EC Network website at [www.massECnetwork.org](http://www.massECnetwork.org) or contact Stacie Garnett at [stacie@prochoicemass.org](mailto:stacie@prochoicemass.org) or 617-556-8800 x15.

*Adapted in part from Pharmacy Access Partnership ([www.PharmacyAccess.org](http://www.PharmacyAccess.org))*