



Emergency Contraception Pharmacy Access

What is the emergency contraception pharmacy access program?

- As part of the new emergency contraception (EC) law in Massachusetts, some pharmacists will be able to dispense EC through a voluntary agreement with a physician.
- Women will be able to get EC directly from trained pharmacists without needing to get a doctor's prescription first.

What is emergency contraception?

- Emergency contraception (EC or the "morning-after pill") is a safe and effective birth control method that can **prevent** pregnancy when used up to 5 days after unprotected sex.
- EC is **not** the abortion pill. It will not work if a woman is already pregnant.

What else do I need to know?

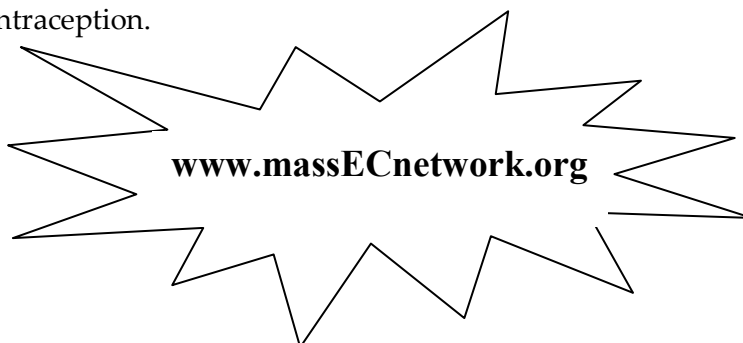
- Because participation in the EC pharmacy access program is voluntary, not all pharmacists will choose to participate. A list of participating pharmacies will be posted on www.massECnetwork.org once they begin to offer EC services.
- If you need EC now and there is not a participating pharmacy nearby, you can contact your health care provider. You can also call Planned Parenthood at 1-800-258-4448 or the EC Hotline at 1-888-not-2-late.
- Prescriptions for EC from your health care provider are still valid. You can fill your prescription at your local pharmacy whether or not they participate in the pharmacy access program.

How can I get involved?

- Contact the Massachusetts EC Network now to stay informed and find out about upcoming opportunities to help! To make the EC pharmacy access program successful, we will need pharmacists from around the state to sign up to participate. We will also need to educate women about the increased availability of EC and how to get it.

What is the Massachusetts EC Network?

- The EC Network is a coalition of medical providers, pharmacists, community organizations, and government agencies working together to improve access to and public knowledge of emergency contraception.



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