

WHAT NEW YORK CONSUMERS NEED TO KNOW

PLAN B[®] is now over-the-counter! (Emergency Contraception)

Plan B[®] was recently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for sale over-the-counter in pharmacies.

Here are some answers to questions you might have about getting Plan B[®].

What is Plan B[®]?

- Plan B[®] is a safe and reliable way to prevent pregnancy after unprotected sex or birth control failure.
- Plan B[®] has a higher dose of the ingredient found in regular birth control pills and works the same way. With Plan B[®] you take two pills according to directions provided by your health care provider or the instructions in the packet.
- Plan B[®] DOES NOT prevent HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted infections.
- Take Plan B[®] as soon as possible after having unprotected sex. It can be used up to 72 hours after sex but it works better the sooner it is taken.
- Plan B[®] WILL NOT cause an abortion. It is NOT the abortion pill or RU-486. Plan B[®] will not work if you are already pregnant from a previous sexual encounter and it will not harm a developing fetus.

17 years or younger?
You need a prescription!

How can I get Plan B[®] at the pharmacy?

Where will I find Plan B[®] in my pharmacy?

Plan B[®] will be kept behind the pharmacy counter where you go to pick up your prescriptions.

I am 18 or older:

The pharmacist or their staff will ask for proof of age and dispense it to women or men 18 and older.

I am 17 or younger:

Young women will need a prescription for Plan B[®] from a health care provider.

What kind of proof of age will I need?

If you want to buy Plan B[®] over-the-counter, the pharmacist will ask for an ID that proves you are 18 years or older. If you do not have an ID, the pharmacist will probably ask you to get a prescription from a health care provider.

18 years or older?
No prescription needed!

Can men buy Plan B[®]?

Yes. Men 18 and older, with proper identification, will be able to buy Plan B[®]. Men under the age of 18 will not be able to buy the product.

Is there a limit to the number of times I can get Plan B[®] from a pharmacy?

No. If you are paying for Plan B[®] yourself, there is no legal limit. Medicaid or health insurance plans may have a limit on the number of times they will pay for Plan B[®].

What if my pharmacy doesn't have Plan B[®]?

You need to try another pharmacy as soon as possible. Ask the pharmacist to call other nearby pharmacies for you. You also may be able to get Plan B[®] at your local family planning or health clinic.

Plan B[®] is available at family planning health centers and pharmacies.

What will it cost?

How much will Plan B® cost at a pharmacy?

Plan B® may vary in cost depending on where you buy it. It will probably range from \$30-\$50 in the pharmacy.

Will Medicaid pay for Plan B®?

Yes. If you have Medicaid, it will pay for Plan B®. If you are age 18 or older, use your Medicaid card to purchase Plan B® over-the-counter. If you are 17 or younger, Medicaid will pay if you have a prescription for Plan B® from your health care provider. Five prescription refills are also covered by Medicaid.

Will my health insurance pay for Plan B®?

Some health insurance plans will pay for Plan B®, others will not.

What if I can't afford to pay for Plan B®?

Plan B® might be free or sold at lower cost in family planning clinics or health clinics where the charge is based on your ability to pay. In New York City, EC is free in City STD clinics. (In NYC, call 311 to find a clinic near you.) To find clinics outside of New York City, see the resources listed below.

Is Plan B® safe?

Yes. The FDA approved Plan B® for all women who want to prevent a pregnancy. It is safe for all women of childbearing age including women younger than 18 years.

Should I see my health care provider after I take Plan B®?

It is not necessary, but you may want to for these reasons:

- Plan B® is not as effective as the correct and consistent use of other birth control methods, like the pill, the patch, the shot or the IUD. So if you are sexually active or planning to be, talk to a health care provider about a more dependable way to protect against unintended pregnancy. *(To find a family planning health center near you see resources below).*
- Plan B® does not protect you from HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. A condom will help protect you. You may want to be tested.
- If your period is late, you may want to get a pregnancy test.

Resource

Contact Information

Information about Plan B® and other EC products	www.go2planB.com , www.go2ec.com , www.not-2-late.com (English, Spanish, French, Arabic)
EC providers in the US and Canada	www.not-2-late.com or 1-888-NOT-2-LATE
EC providers in New York City including STD clinics	Call 311
Family planning clinics in New York	Greene County Family Planning, 518-719-3580* www.plannedparenthood.org or 1-800-230-PLAN Growing Up Healthy Hotline 1-800-522-5006 or TTY: 1-800-655-1789
NYS HIV/AIDS Information Services	1-800-541-2437
NYS Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline	1-800-942-6906 (English), 1-800-942-6908 (Spanish)
Information, referral, and programs for victims of sexual assault	www.nyscasa.org
Resources and referrals for victims of domestic violence	www.nyscadv.org

*Added by Greene County Family Planning with permission from FPA 1/08.

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Family Planning Advocates of New York State

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