



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

AUG 14 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (MANPOWER
AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
COMMANDER, JOINT TASK FORCE, NATIONAL CAPITAL
REGION MEDICAL

SUBJECT: Coverage of Over-the-Counter Plan B One-Step Emergency Contraceptive at
Military Treatment Facilities

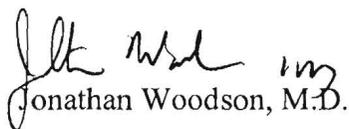
References: (a) Food and Drug Administration News Release, June 20, 2013
(b) Department of Defense Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee
Minutes May 2013, signed August 6, 2013

In keeping with our commitment to fully meet the reproductive health needs of our Servicewomen and female beneficiaries, I wish to announce the Department of Defense's position regarding use of over-the-counter (OTC) Plan B One-Step Emergency Contraceptive at Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs).

On June 20, 2013, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced the use of Plan B One-Step (levonorgestrel) emergency contraceptive as an OTC product "for all women of child-bearing potential without age or point-of-sale restrictions." (Reference (a)). Therefore, on August 6, 2013, I signed the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee Minutes of the meeting convened in May 2013, which incorporated the following statement:

"As the FDA has now approved emergency contraceptive Plan B One-Step to be available over the counter without restrictions, and as regulations required by Section 702, of the FY13 NDAA to include OTCs on the uniform formulary have not yet been prescribed, no emergency contraceptive shall be included on the BCF. Nevertheless, MTFs shall carry Plan B One-Step and provide it at no cost." [Pages 8-9 of Reference (b).]

Effective immediately, all MTFs shall carry Plan B One-Step, and provide it at no cost. My point of contact is Captain (CAPT) Nita Sood, U.S. Public Health Service, Pharmaceutical Operations Directorate. CAPT Sood may be reached at (703) 681-2890.


Jonathan Woodson, M.D.

cc:
Surgeon General of the Army
Surgeon General of the Navy
Surgeon General of the Air Force
Director, Health, Safety & Work-life
U.S. Coast Guard
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