



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION
OFFICE OF LICENSING AND REGISTRATION

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To: All licensed pharmacists

From: Geraldine L. Betts, Administrator *Jeri*

Date: March 8, 2005

Re: Emergency Contraception Drug Therapy

Public Law Chapter 524 on Emergency Contraception took effect on July 30, 2004. The enclosed material is designed to assist pharmacists who wish to initiate emergency contraception drug therapy in accordance with 32 MRSA Subchapter 12 of the Maine Pharmacy Practice Act (*see reverse side*).

In accordance with Section 13824 of the practice act, the board developed a standardized *Fact Sheet* that a participating pharmacist must provide to the recipient of the emergency contraceptive drugs. Please read the law carefully (*reverse side*) for details on what a pharmacist must do to be eligible to dispense EC in collaboration with an authorized prescriber. The *Fact Sheet* was developed in consultation and input from the Department of Human Services, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Maine Pharmacy Association, and the Family Planning Association of Maine.

To initiate emergency contraception drug therapy a pharmacist must complete a board-approved EC training before dispensing EC and have an established protocol agreement with an authorized prescriber.

On February 8, 2005, the Maine Board of Pharmacy approved the American Pharmacists Association ("APhA") continuing education program on Emergency Contraception along with live training for pharmacists on EC to fulfill the training requirements of Section 13823. Information about an upcoming April 1 education session is enclosed.

To further assist pharmacists, information on training personnel, Frequently Asked Questions, and referral contacts is enclosed. Sample Protocol Agreement, Informed Consent, and Communication forms to use as a guideline in structuring an EC drug therapy program is also enclosed. The sample forms are optional and you may feel free to adjust and revise these forms to fit your needs. You may NOT, however, alter the Fact Sheet. Please feel free to duplicate this information as needed. You may also access these same documents online at www.maineprofessionalreg.org

MAINE BOARD OF PHARMACY PRACTICE ACT

SUBCHAPTER 12

COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE FOR EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

Title 32

§13821. Short title

This subchapter is known and may be cited as "the Collaborative Practice for Emergency Contraception Act."

§13822. Collaborative practice authorized

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a licensed pharmacist who has completed the training required in section 13823 may initiate emergency contraception drug therapy in accordance with standardized procedures or protocols developed by the pharmacist and an authorized prescriber who is acting within the prescriber's scope of practice.

§13823. Training required

Prior to performing any procedure authorized under this chapter, a pharmacist must have completed a training program on emergency contraception, delivered by an entity authorized by a national council on pharmaceutical education, or another training program approved by the board. The training program must include, but is not limited to, conduct of sensitive communications, quality assurance, referral to additional services and documentation.

§13824. Provision of standardized fact sheet required

For each emergency contraception drug therapy initiated pursuant to this subchapter, the pharmacist shall provide the recipient of the emergency contraceptive drugs with a standardized fact sheet developed by the board that includes, but is not limited to, the indications for use of the drug, the appropriate method for using the drug, the need for medical follow-up and referral information, information on sexual assault and referral information and other appropriate information.

§13825. Confidentiality

Nothing in this subchapter affects the provisions of law relating to maintaining the confidentiality of medical records.



EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION:

THE PHARMACIST'S ROLE



FEBRUARY 2005

