



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Department of Consumer Protection
Drug Control Division

**Connecticut Pharmacist Emergency Contraception
Prescribing
October 2023**

A pharmacist may issue a prescription to initiate treatment with, dispense, or administer the Emergency Contraception:

- Self-administered hormonal emergency contraception (EC) provided the patient completes an assessment consistent with the United States Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use.

PHARMACIST EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Prior to issuing a prescription to initiate treatment with, or dispensing of a self-administered hormonal EC under this protocol, the pharmacist shall be knowledgeable of the manufacturer's instructions for use or standard protocol and shall have completed the training specific to the prescribing of EC required in the regulations.

PATIENT INCLUSION CRITERIA

Patients eligible for self-administered hormonal EC under this protocol:

- An individual who has completed the *Connecticut Emergency Contraception Self-Screening Questionnaire** indicating the last day of unprotected intercourse was within the previous 5 days (120 hours) and who the pharmacist has determined is eligible for a hormonal emergency contraceptive, consistent with the most current version of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention *US Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use, Classifications for Emergency Contraception*.

*Note: A pharmacy may create and use an electronic emergency contraception self-screening questionnaire if the collection of patient information and assessment process is at minimum identical to the Connecticut Emergency Contraception Self-Screening Questionnaire.

PROCESS FOR HANDLING INELIGIBLE PATIENTS

Patients identified by the pharmacist to NOT be eligible for EC shall be referred to a healthcare practitioner and may not receive EC prescribed by a pharmacist. If the patient does not have a primary care provider, the pharmacist shall provide information regarding primary health care providers, including federally qualified health centers, free clinics, or local health departments serving the area in which the patient is located.

DRUG INCLUSION CRITERIA

All drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use as emergency contraception are permitted to be prescribed in accordance with the statutes and regulations.



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ADDITIONAL PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING CONSIDERATIONS

- For women who weigh more than 165 lbs, levonorgestrel may be less effective than ulipristal acetate.*
- Levonorgestrel may be preferable for women who need EC due to missed or late pills, patch, or ring.*
- Starting hormonal birth control immediately after taking ulipristal acetate may make it ineffective.*
- For women with prescription insurance coverage, OTC drugs may be covered by the health carrier when prescribed for the patient.*
- Ella® (ulipristal acetate) may be more effective if it has been more than 72 hours since the last day of unprotected intercourse.
- Pharmacist must counsel the patient on the proper use of the EC and side effects, to include providing written educational materials.

RECORDKEEPING

The pharmacist shall maintain records in accordance with statutes and regulations.

NOTIFICATION OF PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER AND COUNSELING

1. If the pharmacist initiates treatment with or dispenses or administers a self- administered hormonal EC, the pharmacist shall notify the patient's primary care provider and obstetrician/gynecologist (OB/GYN). If the patient does not have a primary care provider, the pharmacist shall counsel the patient regarding the benefits of establishing a relationship with a primary health care provider and, upon request, provide information regarding primary health care providers, including federally qualified health centers, free clinics, or local health departments serving the area in which the patient is located; and,
2. Additionally, the pharmacist shall counsel the patient regarding seeking preventative care, including (i) routine well-woman visits, (ii) testing for sexually transmitted infections, and (iii) pap smears.

RESOURCES

https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/contraception/contraception_guidance.htm
<https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/contraception/mmwr/spr/emergency.html>
<https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/contraception/mmwr/spr/summary.html>