

2005 RESOLUTION

Public Education and Access to Emergency Contraception

WHEREAS contraception is an integral part of reproductive health care and that barriers to access can lead to unintended pregnancies and preventable abortions; and

WHEREAS women are more likely to use emergency contraception (EC) if they have it readily available through advance prescription [EC, for purposes of this resolution, will refer to hormonal emergency contraceptive pills]; and

WHEREAS the Food and Drug Administration states that EC is safe and effective; and

WHEREAS access and information about EC is necessary to increase its use by women in need,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that WPHA supports measures that improve women's awareness of and access to a full range of contraceptive options, including emergency contraception and

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WPHA asserts the following:

- State and local governing bodies, public health agencies, health care providers and insurance carriers should authorize and fund initiatives to develop and disseminate medically accurate and age appropriate information about the use, safety, efficacy and availability of EC.
- Professional health and medical associations should update their standards of care for EC and support the development and dissemination of accurate information about EC.
- Health systems are encouraged to support a Wisconsin toll-free EC Hotline.
- Health systems should establish protocols that allow EC without unnecessary examinations or other barriers to immediate access.
- Health systems, public health agencies, and professional associations should support legislation as well as protocols and practices that ensure that patients are not denied timely access to EC based on an individual health care provider's moral or religious objections.
- Public Health agencies should support Department of Health and Family Services performance quality standards requiring state-contracted family planning programs to include emergency contraception options as a routine standard of care.
- State and local governing bodies and public health agencies should authorize protocols and policies that promote immediate access to information and delivery of emergency contraception to victims of rape.

Fiscal Impact: No cost to WPHA.

Probable impact on public health: Decreased abortions, decreased unintended pregnancies, and decreased pain, suffering and expense these conditions may cause.

References

1. Providing Access to Emergency Contraception for Survivors of Sexual Assault. American Public Health Association resolution 2003-16.
2. Support of Public Education about Emergency Contraception and Reduction or Elimination of Barriers to Access. American Public Health Association resolution 2003-15.

Note that both resolutions are extensively footnoted.

Submitted to WPHA on:

Authors

Name	email	phone
Linda McFarlin	lmcfarlin@co.adams.wi.us	608-339-4253
Barbara Theis	btheis@co.juneau.wi.us	608-847-9373