

SAGINAW COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
PERSONAL AND PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES  
FAMILY PLANNING

**EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTIVE FACT SHEET**

Emergency contraception works by stopping the ovary from releasing an egg if given before ovulation. There may be another way that it works if given after ovulation, however that is unknown at this time. It will not terminate an established pregnancy.

**EFFECTIVENESS:**

- Effective 89% of the time.

**USE:**

- Should be used as soon as possible after unprotected intercourse.
- May be used up to 120 hours after unprotected intercourse.
- Use after unprotected intercourse; if condom breaks during intercourse, if a partner fails to withdraw before ejaculation, or if you miss birth control pills.
- After a rape, it is usually given by emergency room personnel.
- If your period does not start within four weeks, see the nurse for a pregnancy test.

**BENEFITS:**

- Prevents pregnancy after intercourse.

**DISCONTINUATION:**

- Nausea and vomiting occur less frequently with Plan B, however if you vomit within 2 hours after the dose, call the clinic and speak with a nurse.

**SIDE EFFECTS:**

- Fatigue
- Breast tenderness
- Menstrual changes
- Nausea

**WARNING SIGNS:**

- There are no warning signs

**RISKS AND COMPLICATIONS:**

- There are no known risks or complications

**Remember, Emergency Contraceptives do not protect against any sexually transmitted disease. It is important to use condoms each time you have sex.**

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SCDPH FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM RECEIVED TITLE X FEDERAL GRANT SUPPORT

Reference: Hatcher, R. A., et al, (2011) Contraceptive Technology (20<sup>th</sup> Edition)  
New York, NY: Irvington Publishers, Inc.

1/07, Rev. 2/09, Rev. 10/11, 4/15