

SAGINAW COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
PERSONAL AND PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES
FAMILY PLANNING

EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION FACT SHEET

Emergency contraception works by stopping the ovary from releasing the egg if it is 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 cause an abortion by stopping an established pregnancy.

EFFECTIVENESS:

- Effective approximately 89% of the time

USE:

- Should be used as soon as possible after unprotected intercourse (sex).
- May be used up to 72 hours after unprotected intercourse.
- Use after unprotected intercourse, if condom breaks during intercourse, if a partner fails to withdraw before ejaculation, if you miss birth control pills, or are late for your injection (shot), patch or vaginal ring.
- 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.
- Emergency contraception only stays in your body for a short time. It is not meant to be used as a regular birth control method. **If you find that you are using emergency contraception frequently, talk to the clinic about finding a regular birth control method that's right for you as regular birth control methods are more effective.**

BENEFITS:

- Prevents pregnancy after intercourse.

DISCONTINUATION:

- Nausea and vomiting occur less frequently with Levonorgestrel 1.5 mg, however, if you vomit within 2 hours after the dose, call the clinic and speak to 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 infections. It is important to use condoms each time you have sex.

Personal Health Center
(989) 758 -3870

Or visit our website: www.saginawpublichealth.org



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Reference: Hatcher, R.A., et al, (2018) Contraceptive Technology (21st Edition)
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