

• **Key Facts About Emergency Contraception**

Emergency Contraception is a safe and effective way to prevent pregnancy after sex.

- **Consider using emergency contraception if:**
 - You didn't use a contraceptive during sex, or You think your contraceptive didn't work.
- **What are Emergency Contraceptive Pills?**
 - Emergency contraceptive pills contain the same medication as regular birth control pills and help to prevent pregnancy.
- **There are three basic types of emergency contraceptive pills:**
 - Plan B™ progestin-only pills
 - Preven™ estrogen/progestin pills
 - High doses of regular oral contraceptive (birth control) pills.
- **Pills should be started within 120 hours (five days) after unprotected sex.**
Emergency contraceptive pills require two doses:
 - First dose within 120 hours of unprotected intercourse
 - Second dose 12 hours after the first dose

Emergency contraceptive pills are more effective the sooner they are taken.

- **Safe and effective**
 - Progestin-only pills reduce the risk of pregnancy by 89%.*
 - Combined estrogen/progestin pills reduce the risk of pregnancy by 75%.*
 - For regular, long-term use, other contraceptive methods are more effective.
 - Emergency contraceptive pills do not protect against sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS.
 - *Pregnancy risk reduction based on one-time use.
- **Won't cause an abortion.**
 - Emergency contraceptive pills are NOT the same as RU-486 (the abortion pill).
 - Emergency contraceptive pills are not effective after implantation; they cannot interrupt an established pregnancy.
 - Won't harm a developing fetus.
 - If emergency contraceptive pills are mistakenly taken during pregnancy, they will not harm the developing fetus.
 - Using emergency contraceptive pills will not affect a woman's ability to become pregnant in the future.
- **Women can keep pills at home in case of emergency.**
 - Many women find it convenient to have emergency contraceptive pills on hand in case of an emergency.
 - Medical providers or your pharmacist can provide emergency contraceptive pills before they are needed.
- **Medical follow up after taking Emergency Contraceptive Pills.**
 - If you don't get a normal period within 3 weeks, you can use an at home pregnancy test to find out if you are pregnant.
 - You may also visit your healthcare provider to check to see if you are pregnant.
 - It is important to visit your doctor or clinic if you need a regular birth control method or services to prevent sexually transmitted infections or AIDS.