DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
2300 E STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20372-5300

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MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE EAST
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE WEST
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE SUPPORT COMMAND

SUBJECT: Prescribing, Dispensing, and Distribution of Plan B® (Levonorgestrel)

Ref: (a) U.S. Food and Drug Administration "FDA News" Regarding Plan B® dated 24 August 2006

This memorandum establishes guidance on procedures for the prescribing, dispensing, and distributing of Plan B® (Levonorgestrel). Plan B® is an emergency contraceptive drug approved by the FDA for the prevention of pregnancy after a contraceptive failure or after unprotected sex.

In accordance with reference (a), Plan B® has been approved by the FDA as both a prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) product with specific age restrictions: individuals 17 years of age and under will require a prescription, while those 18 years of age and older can obtain the drug without a prescription from a pharmacy as an OTC drug product.

Responsibilities:

a. Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) Commanders and Commanding Officers will ensure that each MTF pharmacy develops and implements procedures for ordering, storage, dispensing, distributing, and the accounting of Plan B®. Each MTF will develop a written policy and procedure governing the prescription and OTC dispensing of Plan B®, in accordance with the guidelines contained in this policy.

b. Every patient receiving Plan B® will be given a patient information handout provided by the manufacturer.

c. Each MTF Commander and Commanding Officer will develop policies to ensure that patients are able to receive Plan B® when their healthcare provider or pharmacists have moral or ethical beliefs that conflict with the prescribing, dispensing or distributing of Plan B®.

Policies and Procedures:

a. Documentation: The responsible healthcare provider will ensure that all distributions of Plan B®, whether by prescription or OTC, are entered into thepatient's electronic medical record and the AHLTA medication profile. If AHLTA is not available, Plan B® distribution will be documented in the patient's paper medical record.

b. MTF Pharmacies:

1) MTF Pharmacies may distribute Plan B® as an OTC to beneficiaries 18 years of age and older.
2) Beneficiaries 17 years old and under will require a non-refillable prescription for each dispensation.
3) Males requesting Plan B® must present their military identification card and the identification card of the eligible female beneficiary who will consume the medication.
4) Procedures for the stock and replenishment of Plan B® will be established, coordinated, and monitored by the local MTF Pharmacy.

c. MTF Emergency Room (ER):

1) ER distribution of Plan B® must be by a licensed healthcare provider and in accordance with local MTF policy.
2) ER distribution must be directly to the patient taking the medication.
3) Local policy governing ER distribution of Plan B® must be consistent with local policy governing ER procedures for distributing medication after the MTF main pharmacy is closed.

Limitations:

a. Dispensation of Plan B® will not exceed two packs in six months per patient.

b. Additional dispensing of Plan B® to a patient in excess of two packs in six months will be by prescription. Patients will be counseled on this requirement by the person dispensing the initial pack.

My point of contact for questions regarding Plan B® is Captain David Price at (202) 762-3004 or deprice@us.med.navy.mil.

J. M. MATECZUN
Vice Chief