

During the November 1-2, 2023, Board Meeting, the Board received a presentation on research findings relating to implementation of pharmacist sexual and reproductive health services in California, including emergency contraception. Recent research findings suggest there may be a lack of awareness about certain provisions of pharmacy law and FDA actions relating to emergency contraception drugs levonorgestrel (also known as “Plan B One-Step”) and ulipristal acetate (also known as “ella”), and the Board seeks to remind pharmacists of the following:

- **Legal Requirements to Provide Access to Contraception to Minors:** There is no age restriction to purchase over-the-counter levonorgestrel emergency contraception, and California law permits minors to consent to hormonal contraception to prevent pregnancy without the consent of a parent or guardian. (Cal. Family Code, §§ 6925, 6927.) More information about levonorgestrel is available [here](#).
- **Independent Pharmacist Furnishing of Hormonal and Emergency Contraception:** Pharmacists may independently furnish hormonal and emergency contraception pursuant to the protocols established in California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Sections [1746](#) and [1746.1](#), after completing training on emergency or hormonal contraception. As required in the protocols, a pharmacist must provide patients with the emergency or hormonal contraception fact sheet. Information on the protocols and fact sheets are available [here](#) and [here](#). As a reminder, a range of emergency contraception options are available, with varying efficacies for different populations.
- **12-Month Supply of Hormonal Contraception:** [Business and Professions Code Section 4064.5\(f\)](#) permits pharmacists who independently furnish self-administered hormonal contraception pursuant to the state protocol to furnish up to a 12-month supply at one time, at the patient's request if allowed by the patient's health plan.
- **Timely Access to Emergency Contraception:** As required by [Business and Professions Code Section 733\(b\)\(3\) and \(d\)](#), an employer is required to establish protocols that ensure that a patient has timely access to a prescribed emergency contraception drug if a pharmacist refuses to dispense the medication based on ethical, moral or religious grounds.

More information about the research and findings is available [here](#) and [here](#).