



# POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

**SUBJECT:** ACCESS TO EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

**POLICY NO:** 252.1

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**PURPOSE:**

To decrease the risk of unintended pregnancy in DHS patients and their sexual partners by improving patient education about and access to emergency contraception (EC).

To provide guidelines for DHS clinic staff in prescribing and dispensing EC.

**POLICY:**

Emergency contraception (EC) should be routinely offered in advance of need to patients at the following clinic types:

- Primary Care
- Family Planning
- Women's Health
- Pediatrics

If indicated, a prescription for urgent use should also be provided.

EC should be dispensed for urgent use at urgent care and emergency departments and must be made available to patients who present following sexual assault. An additional prescription should be provided in advance of need.

Women receiving EC should be counseled about contraceptive methods and be provided or referred for an ongoing method of birth control. In cases of sexual assault, such counseling may be deferred.

DHS formulary should be consulted to determine which forms of EC are available.

**DEFINITIONS:**

*Urgent Use:* Providing EC or an EC prescription to a patient who reports unprotected intercourse within the last 72-120 hours, and does not desire pregnancy.

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**APPROVED BY:**  
**REVIEW**  
**DATES:**

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2011

**SUPERSEDES:**

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**SUBJECT:** ACCESS TO EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

**POLICY NO.:** 252.1

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*In Advance of Need:* Providing an EC prescription to a sexually active female of reproductive age, even one who uses another form of contraception, in case of future need.

**AUTHORITY:**

California Business & Professions Code § 682 (2003), §4052 (2001, 2003)

California Insurance Code § 10604.1

California Health & Safety Code § 1343.02

California Welfare & Institutions Code § 14016.8

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration

<http://www.fda.gov/drugs/drugsafety/postmarketdrugsafetyinformationforpatientsandproviders/ucm109775.htm>

American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology Practice Bulletin 112, Emergency Contraception. May 2010.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Community Health Services Policy #317

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**EFFECTIVE**

**DATE:**

July 1, 2011

**SUPERSEDES:**

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