



MINORS' ACCESS TO EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

Underscoring the importance of access to reproductive healthcare, California Attorney General Rob Bonta today reminds pharmacies of their obligation under California law to provide minors access to emergency contraception, specifically levonorgestrel (also known as Plan B One Step), without a prescription and without parental consent.

Since 2013, when the Food and Drug Administration lifted age restrictions, Plan B One Step has been available for purchase over-the-counter by individuals of all ages. A recent survey of pharmacists conducted by the UCLA School of Law Center on Reproductive Health Law & Policy, however, suggests that many California pharmacies have in place policies that prevent minors from obtaining Plan B, either altogether or only if they have parental consent.

Imposing those kind of barriers for minors trying to obtain emergency contraception is contrary to California law. The California Constitution's protection of privacy rights includes the right of minors to access reproductive healthcare without parental consent. Likewise, the California Family Code establishes that minors may consent to care without parental consent when seeking healthcare related to the "prevention or treatment of pregnancy" as well as when seeking healthcare related to sexual assault.

Given the critical importance to minors of accessing reproductive healthcare, including emergency contraception, Attorney General Bonta encourages pharmacies to:

- Review their policies and procedures regarding the sale of emergency contraception to minors to ensure that they comply with California law;
- Review their employee training to ensure that employees are aware that minors can access emergency contraception without a prescription and without parental consent under California law; and
- Take any additional proactive steps to ensure compliance with California reproductive healthcare laws.

Californians who have information relating to potential violations of the law should report it at oag.ca.gov/report.

