



INLAND EMPIRE HEALTH PLAN

# PHARMACY TIMES

BY IEHP PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

April 19, 2010

## IMPORTANT CHANGES ON THE PRESCRIPTION REQUIREMENT OF PLAN B (Formulary Product: Next Choice)

Approval of Plan B by the FDA as an over-the-counter product for women 18 years of age and older in August 2006 expanded access to this method of preventing unintended pregnancy. The FDA stipulated that the product could be sold by a pharmacist without a prescription to consumers 18 years of age and older; younger women were still required to have a prescription. Medicaid law allows state to cover over-the-counter products if they are treated as prescriptions, which requires a qualified health practitioner to provide a pharmacist with an order. Given that the effectiveness of Plan B is greatest the sooner it is used after unprotected sexual intercourse, it was critical to find ways to avoid unnecessary delay. **Effective immediately, IEHP will waive the requirement to obtain a prescription for Emergency Contraceptives (EC) for our Members who are 18 or older.**

*For IEHP Members who are 18 or older requesting Emergency Contraceptives (EC)*

- No Prescription is required from Physicians or certified Pharmacists.
- Dispensing Pharmacist must check Member's Age before dispensing the EC.
- Although a valid prescription is no longer necessary for IEHP Members, the dispensing Pharmacist **MUST** document the following information on a prescription pad and keep for audit purposes: Member's Name, DOB, Date of Service, EC product dispensed (Formulary Choice: Next Choice), quantity, and Pharmacist's Name and NPI.
- When submitting the EC claim online, *use Pharmacist's NPI in Prescriber field*. Please note that Pharmacist's NPI are allowed in Prescriber field for EC claims only. Other claims identified using Pharmacist's NPI as Prescriber ID are considered invalid claims and are subject to audits and recoupments.

*For IEHP Members who are 17 or younger requesting Emergency Contraceptives (EC)*

- A prescription is required (from Physician or certified Pharmacist).
- The prescription may be obtained from the Member's PCP via phone or paper fax.
- EC Formulary Choice: Next Choice

In all circumstances, Pharmacist must provide consultation (directions, side effects, etc.) to all Members seeking EC. IEHP will apply a quantity limitation to all ECs and conduct random claims review to ensure Members are using ECs appropriately. If you have any questions or comments regarding this change, please call IEHP Pharmaceutical Services Department at 909-890-2049.

303 E. Vanderbilt Way, Suite 400, San Bernardino, CA 92408  
Tel (909) 890-2049 Fax (909) 890-2058  
Visit our web site at: [www.iehp.org](http://www.iehp.org)

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