



Northwestern University

Feinberg School of Medicine

Department of Obstetrics
and Gynecology
Suite 1015
680 North Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60611-8702 USA

John J. Sciarra, MD, PhD

Thomas J. Watkins Professor

jsciarra@northwestern.edu
Phone 312-695-5107
Fax 312-908-8777



**NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY**

February 11, 2004

Secretary Tommy G. Thompson
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

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COMMUNICATIONS
CONTROL CENTER

Dear Secretary Thompson:

I am writing as a certified obstetrician/gynecologist, a member of the America College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and a member of the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP) to support over-the-counter (OTC) status for Plan B emergency contraceptive pills (ECPs). I have reviewed the scientific literature and believe the evidence clearly supports this change. I agree with the FDA advisory panel's finding that the data shows ECPs to be safe and effective for reducing unintended pregnancy and that it is appropriate for over-the-counter use. I urge you to support OTC access to ECPs.

The experts have given their report. There is no medical reason why ECPs should not be available over the counter for the women who can benefit. All women deserve the opportunity to safely and effectively protect themselves from unintended pregnancy.

Sincerely,

John J. Sciarra M.D., Ph.D.

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