



October 15, 2004

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket number 2001P-0075 in the *Federal Register* 25 November 2003 (Volume 68, Number 227)

Dear Sir / Madam:

We urge you to approve the emergency contraceptive (EC) pill, Plan B[®], for over-the-counter sales. Jane Doe Inc. is the statewide member coalition of nearly 60 community-based rape crisis and domestic violence organizations that provide services to thousands of women, men and children each year. We are guided by the voices of survivors.

The many and varied circumstances of rape underscore the need for access to emergency contraception for all women. Whether raped on a date by their boyfriend, in their own home by their husband, or in their neighborhood by a stranger, one of their first concerns may be "Am I going to become pregnant?" Rape victims face a host of barriers to ensuring that the rape does not result in pregnancy. Despite emergency contraception's safe and proven ability to prevent unintended pregnancy, 1 in 4 hospital emergency rooms across Massachusetts fail to make emergency contraception available - even to rape victims.

Pregnancy prevention for rape victims is a fundamental step in giving them some control back over their own bodies and lives. To ensure that rape victims have access to EC, all women must have access. By breaking down barriers we will improve the short and long-term health for women who are victims of rape- indeed, for all women.

Emergency contraception is safe and effective. More widespread use of EC could prevent 1.7 million unintended pregnancies and 800,000 abortions each year. The FDA's own advisory committees recommended that EC is suitable for over-the-counter use. It is 89% effective and very easy to use. However, for maximum effectiveness, women should take EC as soon as possible after unprotected intercourse.

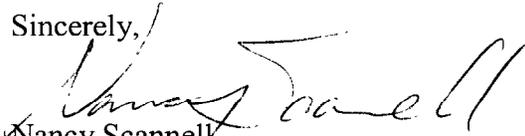
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Many women have difficulty making an appointment with a health care provider within the 72 hour window, especially women who live in rural areas or who don't have a primary care provider. Making Plan B[®] available over-the-counter would greatly increase the chances of women having access to it when they need it.

We urge you to approve Plan B[®] for over-the-counter sale. In order to restore America's faith in the objectivity of the FDA and to work in the interest of public health, it is essential that the FDA make Plan B[®] available as an over-the-counter product.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nancy Scannell".

Nancy Scannell
Director of Government Affairs
Jane Doe Inc.