

**FORENSIC NURSE SPECIALISTS, INC.**

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Steven K. Galson, MD Acting Director,  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research  
Phone (301) 594-5400 Fax (301)-594-6197

Dear Dr. Galson:

I strongly urge you to accept the application by Barr Laboratories to make Plan B® emergency contraception available over-the-counter.

Our agency specializes in the care and treatment of women who have been victims of sexual assault. We currently provide emergency contraception to many victims as part of their treatment regime, but many women do not report this crime and therefore do not receive the optimal care they deserve. With public information about emergency contraception and easy availability at their local drug store for an over the counter medication, many needless abortions would be prevented each year. For women who are victims, EPCs are not a form of regular birth control!

Emergency contraception is a safe and easy-to-use contraceptive that contains the same hormones commonly found in most birth control pills. It prevents pregnancy prior to fertilization, primarily by inhibiting ovulation, and secondarily by impairing the migration and function of sperm. It is most effective when used within twenty-four hours of unprotected intercourse, although it has been shown to prevent pregnancy for up to three days.

In December 2003, the Reproductive Health Advisory subcommittee recommended approval of emergency contraception for over-the-counter use. Studies conducted by Barr Laboratories, manufacturer of Plan B® emergency contraception, found that women do not substitute emergency contraception for other forms of birth control, they understand the drug labeling, and are not less likely to obtain other health services.

Thank you for your continued support of women's reproductive health. I urge you to approve over-the-counter access to emergency contraception.

Respectfully,

Malinda Wheeler  
Director

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