



Women's Reproductive Health Advocates Applaud FDA Approval of New Emergency Contraceptive Product, ella®

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Statement by Kirsten Moore, President of Reproductive Health Technologies Project:

“Today, the Food and Drug Administration approved a new emergency contraceptive product, ella®, giving couples another safe and effective option for preventing unintended pregnancy after unprotected sex or contraceptive failure. As women’s health advocates we appreciate that the review process for ella was consistent with standard FDA procedure and based on scientific evidence.

“ella is shown to be safe and effective for use to reduce the risk of pregnancy up to five days with no decline in efficacy during that time period. Data show that it is more effective at delaying ovulation than other methods of emergency contraception during the time when women have the highest chance of getting pregnant and are most likely to be having sex. Similar to other methods of emergency contraception, ella prevents pregnancy; it is not the same thing as mifepristone or the ‘abortion pill.’

“No contraceptive method is 100% perfect and accidents happen - a condom breaks, a birth control pill is missed. An estimated 1 million unprotected sex acts happen each night. Having a variety of FDA approved contraceptive methods is key to helping couples prevent unintended pregnancy.

“Regardless of which emergency contraceptive method a woman chooses, the bottom line is to take action as soon as possible, whether that means calling a provider to get a prescription for ella or going straight to the pharmacy counter for Plan B One-Step or Next Choice.

“Approval of ella is another indication that the FDA is committed to restoring scientific integrity in its decisions. We hope the agency will continue to uphold these values and remove the unwarranted age restriction on Plan B One-Step and Next Choice.”

For more information on ella visit: <http://www.rhtp.org/contraception/emergency/ulipristalacetate.asp>
For more information on emergency contraception: <http://www.rhtp.org/contraception/emergency/default.asp>

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