

# Helping your customer choose the most appropriate emergency contraceptive pill for her

## Information for pharmacists

ellaOne® is licensed for any woman of childbearing age, including adolescents.<sup>1</sup> Levonorgestrel is licensed in women of all ages.<sup>2</sup>

You may need to consider the woman's age

- Explain the difference in efficacy between the options available, and their ability to prevent ovulation
- The risk of pregnancy is highest immediately before ovulation<sup>3</sup>

If both EHC options are appropriate ensure that she has received and understands all relevant information on which to base her choice

Check that unprotected sex / contraceptive failure was no more than 120 hours ago

Check if she is taking any medications, including OTC or herbal preparations

Check to see if she has any medical conditions or other factors to consider e.g. pregnancy, allergies, breastfeeding

ellaOne® can be used up to 120 hours after unprotected sexual intercourse (UPSI).<sup>1</sup>

Levonorgestrel is licensed for use within 72 hours of UPSI.<sup>2</sup>

Efficacy may be affected by medications such as liver enzyme inducers, e.g. anticonvulsants and St John's Wort. Refer to the SmPC for details.<sup>1,2</sup> Has EHC already been taken this cycle?

- Check if the woman has severe liver problems, a severe malabsorption syndrome or any other allergies.<sup>1,2</sup>
- ellaOne® is not recommended for women with severe asthma treated by oral corticosteroids.<sup>1</sup>
- Breastfeeding should be avoided for at least one week after ellaOne® intake<sup>1</sup> and at least 8 hours following levonorgestrel administration.<sup>2</sup>
- Check that she may not already be pregnant. Emergency contraception is not intended for use in established or suspected pregnancy.

**ellaOne®**

30 mg tablet / ulipristal acetate

*effective when it matters most*

Further information available from:

HRA Pharma, Haines House, 21 John Street, Bloomsbury, WC1N 2BF, London.

Freephone: **1800 812 984**.

Email: **med.info.ie@hra-pharma.com**

**Adverse events should be reported. Reporting forms and information can be found at [www.hpra.ie](http://www.hpra.ie).**

**Adverse events should also be reported to HRA Pharma UK & Ireland Ltd on Freephone: 1800 812 984 or email: [med.info.ie@hra-pharma.com](mailto:med.info.ie@hra-pharma.com)**

## References

1. ellaOne® Summary of Product Characteristics. Available at <http://www.medicines.ie/medicine/15370/SPC/ellaOne+30+mg>. Accessed March 2015.
2. NorLevo Summary of Product Characteristics. Available at <http://www.medicines.ie/medicine/11933/SPC/Norlevo+1.5mg+tablet>. Accessed March 2015.
3. Brache V *et al*. Contraception 2013; 88(5): 611-618.

# You & your pharmacist

## Choosing a morning after pill

- If you've had unprotected sex, and it is not the right time in your life to have a baby, you are right to consider emergency contraception
- There is no need to be embarrassed - unprotected sex, or contraceptive accidents can happen to anyone
- These questions will help you prepare for your consultation with the pharmacist, and make sure they can make a suitable recommendation for you.

When?

When did you have unprotected sex, or when did this contraceptive mishap happen?

Your pharmacist will provide a private room or area and will ask you a few standard questions. Under 16s can get EHC from a pharmacist but the pharmacist may ask a few additional questions.

Sexually active women of all ages have contraceptive mishaps

Other medicines?

Are you taking any other medicines (including any herbal medicines)?

Your choice

Depending on your answers to these questions, there may be a choice of emergency contraceptive pills. The options will be explained to you.

How important is it for you not to be pregnant at this time?

Anything else?

- Do you have any medical conditions?
  - Do you have any allergies?
  - Are you breastfeeding?
  - Could you be pregnant?
- Pregnancy happens 6-12 days after unprotected sex, but could you already be pregnant before the mishap we are talking about today?
- Is your period late?
  - Do you have any other signs of pregnancy?