



The Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association

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Transfer of levonorgestrel to NAPRA Schedule 3 (III) Status

On April 19, 2005, Health Canada announced that Plan B (levonorgestrel) was approved for sale without a physician's authorization. The National Drug Scheduling Advisory Committee (NDSAC) determined that levonorgestrel was a NAPRA Schedule 2 (II) drug. Health Canada advised that the Schedule F packaging was suitable for Schedule 2 use.

Currently, Plan B is a NAPRA Schedule 3 (III) drug. As of May 2008, levonorgestrel was transferred from NAPRA Schedule 2 (II) to NAPRA Schedule 3 (III). This applies when levonorgestrel is sold in concentrations of 0.75 mg per oral dosage unit to be taken as a single dose of 1.5 mg, and is packaged and labelled for emergency contraception in package sizes containing no more than 1.5 mg of levonorgestrel.

The MPhA Council approved guidelines on the provision of EC Care in Manitoba pharmacies. Although documentation and counseling are no longer a requirement, it is encouraged to prevent misuse if the patient is open to a consultation. A copy of the guideline is posted on the MPhA website and should be inserted in the Pharmacy MPhA Binder under the tab "Standards of Practice".

The MPhA office staff will be available, should you need assistance with any aspects of the transfer, or establishment of EC Care in your practice.