



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Statement by Belle Taylor-McGhee, President and CEO, Pacific Institute for Women's Health, on FDA's Approval of a Generic, Prescription-Only Version of Plan B for Women Ages 17 and Younger

“FDA approves new EC product – but age restrictions continue”

(Los Angeles/ Oakland, CA) - On June 24, 2009, the Food and Drug Administration approved a generic version of Plan B emergency contraception and made it available **by prescription only to women ages 17 and under.**

The generic levonorgestrel tablets 0.75 mg are made by Watson Laboratories Inc., based in Corona, CA.

Plan B, which is manufactured by Duramed, a subsidiary of Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd, is currently available over-the-counter (OTC) to consumers ages **18 and older and remains available by prescription for women ages 17 and younger.**

Although, the FDA announced on April 22, 2009, that it would allow **17-year olds** to purchase Plan B OTC, Duramed must first relabel the product in order for OTC access to 17-year olds to be implemented. The generic version cannot be approved for **women ages 18 and older** until August 24, 2009, when Duramed's patent on Plan B expires.

The [Pacific Institute for Women's Health](#), and its center [Pharmacy Access Partnership](#), are excited that there is now an additional option for emergency contraception. However, we remain disappointed that the FDA continues to make unnecessary restrictions on young women's access to reproductive health care products.

With an additional prescription product available, the role of pharmacists to initiate prescriptions under protocol continues to be vital – especially for young women seeking access to EC. Currently, certified pharmacists in [nine states](#) (AK, CA, HI, MA, ME, WA, VT, NH, NM) provide Plan B without a prior prescription from a doctor or clinic.

Youth access is of great importance to us and through our [Youth-Friendly Pharmacy Initiative](#) we continue to educate and promote pharmacies as a culturally-relevant access point of care for youth.

Please read the [FDA press release](#) at their website. For more information visit www.PIWH.org. Please also visit www.Go2EC.org and join our [online social network](#) of advocates for EC access.

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