

**ABC NEWS
WORLD NEWS TONIGHT
TRANSCRIPTS**

LOCATION/STORY:

WNTPlanB

FORMAT:

NSB

SUPERS:

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Dir, Ctr for Drug Eval and Research, FDA

Barr Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

WENDY WRIGHT
Pres, Concerned Women for America

Sen HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
(D) New York

CECILE RICHARDS
Pres, Planned Parenthood

JESSICA YELLIN
ABC News The White House

COURTESY:

World News

LENGTH:

SUGGESTED INTRO:

The Food and Drug Administration made a major decision on a controversial issue today. The so-called "morning after pill" will now be sold over the counter...no prescription necessary.

The drug, called Plan B, dramatically lowers the chance of pregnancy when taken within 72 hours of unprotected sex. It may prevent many of the millions of unplanned pregnancies in the U-S each year. Still... some argue it is... an abortion pill. We begin with ABC's Jessica Yellin.

SCRIPT:

IT TOOK THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION THREE YEARS TO REACH THIS DECISION.... EVEN AFTER ITS OWN SCIENTISTS RECOMMENDED THEY APPROVE PLAN B FOR OVER COUNTER SALES.

THE ISSUE BECAME SO HEATED ONE FDA OFFICIAL RESIGNED IN PROTEST.... .AND TWO SENATORS BLOCKED THE CONFIRMATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S NOMINEE TO HEAD THE FDA PENDING A DECISION.

Dr. Steven Galson

The benefits are number one more choice of contraception and then of course prevention of unintended pregnancy.

PLAN B IS A HIGH DOSE OF BIRTH CONTROL. TAKEN WITHIN 72 HOURS OF UNPROTECTED SEX, IT CAN BLOCK OVULATION, FERTILIZATION AND POSSIBLY IMPLANTATION OF A FERTILIZED EGG WHICH SOME CONSIDER ABORTION.

The morning after pill has been at the center of the debate over reproductive rights. Some critics say it will make women more likely to engage in unsafe sex.

Wendy Wright

MAKING THIS DRUG NONPRESCRIPTION GIVES A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY.

DEMOCRATS ARE CALLING THE DECISION A VICTORY FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

Sen. Hillary Clinton

(D) New York

I think today is a good day for the FDA, they've done the right thing in making it available for women 18 and over.

TO BUY THE PILL, WOMEN WILL HAVE TO SHOW PROOF OF AGE...THOSE UNDER 18 WILL REQUIRE A PRESCRIPTION.

SUPPORTERS OF THE MORNING AFTER PILL WERE DISAPPOINTED ABOUT THE AGE RESTRICTION.

CECILE RICHARDS
PRES, PLANNED PARENTHOOD

There is no scientific or medical reason to limit access to young people
to get emergency contraception.

ON CAMERA CLOSE WH LAWN -
JESSICA YELLIN, ABC NEWS, WASHINGTON

ADVISORIES/RESTRICTIONS:

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SUPERS:

Dr ROBIN KALISH
Cornell / Weill

NANCY WEINER
ABC News

Dr DAVID STEVENS
Christian Medical Association

COURTESY:
World News

LENGTH:

SUGGESTED INTRO:

From the political to the personal. Plan B has been available with a prescription since 1999. But now...sold over the counter...it will be in more homes... and in more womens' lives. ABC's Nancy Weiner reports on the reactions among women today.

SCRIPT:
(nat baby)

THERE ARE NEARLY THREE MILLION UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES IN THE UNITED STATES EVERY YEAR. MOST OF THEM, TO WOMEN 24 AND YOUNGER. GYNECOLOGISTS SAY TODAY'S DECISION WILL HAVE THE MOST PROFOUND IMPACT ON THAT AGE GROUP.

(Dr. Robin Kalish/Cornell Weill) OFTEN, WOMEN WHO ARE 18 TO 22 DON'T HAVE AN OBSTETRICIAN/GYNECOLOGIST. AND THEREFORE DON'T HAVE SOMEBODY TO CALL IF THEY NEED THIS MEDICATION

(Nancy Weiner/New York City) SOME COLLEGES SAID TODAY THEY WILL NOW CONSIDER RELAXING THEIR RULES FOR STUDENTS WHO ASK FOR PLAN B -- RULES THAT CURRENTLY REQUIRE STUDENTS TO MEET WITH A SCHOOL DOCTOR OR NURSE PRACTITIONER FIRST.

Bite Barnard student
MOS

IT MAKES IT SEEM LIKE IT'S OKAY TO USE IT IF SOCIETY IS SAYING YOU CAN BUY IT OVER-THE-COUNTER.

AT TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY IN THE HEART OF THE NATION'S BIBLE BELT TODAY, FEMALE STUDENTS WERE SPLIT.

I think it should be made available for a woman to make that choice whether or not they want to take it.

First of all I wouldn't get myself in that situation and second of all, if I did I take responsibility for it I wouldn't take a pill for it and just kill whatever is in there.

AMONG PHARMACISTS, THERE IS CONFUSION ABOUT HOW THE OVER-THE-COUNTER VERSION OF PLAN B WILL BE DISPENSED. HOW DO THEY MAKE SURE CUSTOMERS AREN'T BUYING THE DRUG FOR A FRIEND UNDER 18? WHO WILL EXPLAIN TO WOMEN THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS, WHICH CAN INCLUDE SEVERE NAUSEA?

(nat pharmacy)

CONSERVATIVE GROUPS EXPRESSED CONCERN TODAY THAT EASY ACCESS TO EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION MIGHT DISCOURAGE YOUNG WOMEN FROM USING SAFER AND MORE EFFECTIVE FORMS OF BIRTH CONTROL.

(Dr. David Stevens/Christian Medical Association) Anyone who has a college age kids or teenagers knows that thinking ahead is not one of their strong suits so this will be the easy out.

ON THE OTHER HAND AT ITS CURRENT PRICE OF 25 TO 40 DOLLARS, PLAN B IS STILL MORE EXPENSIVE THAN CONDOMS AND MOST BIRTH CONTROL PILLS.
NANCY WEINER ABC NEWS NEW YORK.

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