

**KABC-TV
TRANSCRIPTS**

Morning After Pill Package
Rob Simmelkjaer
:10 - 01:18

Rob Simmelkjaer: (:10-:20) Today's decision brings to a close one of the longest and most contentious debates in the FDA's history. Proponents of the bill were quick to praise this morning's announcement.

Kathleen Hill-Besinque: (USC School of Pharmacy): (:20-:35) This is a historic decision. For the first time in the forty year history of oral contraceptives, American women eighteen and over will have timely access to a safe and effective product to prevent unintended pregnancy in the event of a contraceptive failure.

Rob Simmelkjaer: (:35-1:04) Plan B, which is manufactured by Barr Laboratories, will be sold only in pharmacies and health clinics. To buy it, women will have to show proof of age. Women seventeen and younger will need a prescription to buy the drug. Pro-life groups have long criticized Plan B calling it an "abortion-on-demand pill" that could also lead to an increase in sexually transmitted diseases. The pill's proponents dispute that saying the pill will not interrupt already established pregnancies.

Rob Simmelkjaer : (1:05-1:18) Plan B must be taken within 72 hours of intercourse in order to be effective. Pharmacies will be responsible for voluntarily enforcing the eighteen-year old age restriction. Rob Simmelkjaer, ABC News, New York.

Morning After Pill Package
Denise Dador
01:23 - 03:47

Denise Dador: (1:23-1:33) It's over-the-counter, but there are still these rules. Women's advoca-advocacy groups say the FDA's decision to let women eighteen and older buy the morning after pill, over-the-counter, is just a partial victory.

Denise Dador: (1:33-1:44) After years of controversy and bitter debate, an historic decision from the FDA. Women eighteen and older will be able to get the morning after pill without a doctor's prescription.

Kathleen Hill-Besinque (USC School of Pharmacy): (1:44-1:51) American women eighteen and over will have timely access to a safe and effective product to prevent unintended pregnancy.

Ira Freeman (Pharmacist): (1:51-1:56) Well, I-I-I applaud the-the FDA because I think it's appropriate-uh.

- Denise Dador:**
(1:56-2:09) Four years ago, Ira Freeman became one of the first pharmacists in California to dispense the emergency contraception under a pilot program. Although Plan B will soon be over-the-counter, pharmacists will keep the medication behind the counter.
- Ira Freeman (Pharmacist):**
(2:09-2:17) So I think tha-tha-the increased access, so long as the pharmacist's involvement is going to be very helpful to this issue.
- Denise Dador:**
(2:18-2:31) Plan B contains a strong dose of a hormone found in birth control pills. Taken within 72 hours of having sex, the drug can block ovulation or implantation of an egg in the uterus. Young women seventeen and under will still need a doctor's prescription.
- Denise Dador:**
(2:31-2:41) One of the concerns about the new age restriction is that an eighteen year old could go into a pharmacy and purchase Plan B for a younger person; pretty much the way it's done in a liquor store.
- Denise Dador:**
(2:41-2:50) While this is an issue, advocates say making the drug more widely available could cut the nation's three million annual unplanned pregnancies.
- Ira Freeman (Pharmacist):**
(2:50-2:57) I'm not terribly concerned. If someone needs it okay-uh-uh, my feeling is they should have access to it.
- Denise Dador:**
(2:58-3:08) But pro-life groups call Plan B: an "abortion on demand" pill. These critics argue wider access could increase promiscuity.
- Wendy Wright
(Concerned Women for America):**
(3:06-3:17) Making this drug non-prescription, gives a false sense of security. Countries like England, Scotland, Sweden, have all experienced no decrease in pregnancies but an increase in teen pregnancies.
- Ira Freeman (Pharmacist):**
(3:18-3:29) So uh, if this increases access, uh-increases public awareness okay to the product availability, uh-I'm not very opposed to it.
- Denise Dador:**
(3:30-3:47) Plan B Manufacturer, Barr Pharmaceuticals, hopes to begin over-the-counter sales by the end of the year. It vows to work with the FDA to get the eighteen and over age restriction lifted. With a prescription, Plan B costs about 35 to 40 dollars. The manufacturer has yet to determine how much it will be over-the-counter.

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Andrea Canning

03:51 - 05:48

Andrea Canning:

(3:52-4:06)

Good Evening Ellen. California is already one of nine states that allows women of any age to buy Plan B without a doctor's prescription. Advocates were hoping that would be the case for the rest of the country. But for now, they'll have to settle-settle for women eighteen and over.

Andrea Canning:

(4:07-4:15)

After years of controversy and bitter debate, a major announcement from the FDA. The morning after pill will be available over-the-counter .

Kathleen Hill-Besinque

(USC School of Pharmacy):

(4:16-4:27)

For the first time in the forty-year history of oral contraceptives, American women eighteen and over will have timely access to a safe and effective product to prevent unintended pregnancy.

Andrea Canning:

(4:27-5:13)

The ruling culminated a contentious three-year effort to ease access to the emergency contraceptive known as Plan B. Plan B contains a strong dose of a hormone found in birth control pills. Taken within 72 hours of having sex, they can block ovulation, fertilization, or the implantation of an egg in the uterus. Young women seventeen and under, still need a doctor's prescription to buy the pills—making the compromise a partial victory for women's advocacy and medical groups. They contend that eliminating sales restrictions could cut in half the nation's three million annual unplanned pregnancies. But pro-life groups have long criticized Plan B calling it an "abortion-on-demand" pill. They argue that wider access could increase promiscuity and sexually transmitted diseases.

Wendy Wright

(Concerned Women for America):

(5:14-5:25)

Making this drug non-prescription, gives a false sense of security. Countries like England, Scotland, Sweden, have all experienced no decrease in pregnancies but an increase in teen pregnancies.

Andrea Canning:

(5:25-5:32)

Nine states already allow women of any age to buy the morning after pill without a doctor's prescription from certain pharmacies.

Andrea Canning:

(5:33-5:48)

The manufacturer of Plan B hopes to begin over-the-counter sales of the drug by the end of this year. It also says it will continue to fight the FDA hoping to lift the over-eighteen restriction. Live in Washington, Andrea Canning, ABC-7 Eyewitness News.

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Elsa Ramon

- Elsa Ramon Intro (5:52 - 6:16)** "Lots of reaction Michelle, it is very controversial. For the last couple of years there has been a pilot program going on here in California in just a small amount of Pharmacies that already sold PLAN B to people over the counter of all ages. Well now the FDA has approved the sale of Plan B over the counter everywhere to people over 18. And tonight a lot of people in Pasadena weighted in on the decision."
- Elsa Ramon (6:16 - 6:20)** Many couples find themselves faced with a contraception emergency.
- Alison Wait SOT (6:21 - 6:27)** "You know accidents do happen and I think it is a lot better than to go to a doctor and have something as severe as an abortion."
- Elsa Ramon (6:28 - 6:46)** There are nearly 3 million unattended pregnancies in the US every year. The decision of the FDA to allow the sale of the morning after pill or PLAN B over the counter to those 18 and older had many in Pasadena expressing hope, that those unintended pregnancies will go down.
- Jim Phillips SOT (6:47 - 6:58)** "If it can stop a fraction of that, it is a great savings in money, in heartache, in healthcare costs, its really good and I am all for it".
- Elsa Ramon (6:59 - 7:19)** PLAN B contains a strong hormone found in birth control pills taken within 72 hours of having sex, the drug can block ovulation or implantation of an egg in the uterus. Four years ago, Ira Freeman became one of the first pharmacists in California to dispense the emergency contraception under a pilot program.
- Ira Freeman SOT (7:20 -7:27)** So, I think that the increase access so long as a Pharmacist is involved will be very helpful to this issue."
- Elsa Ramon (7:28 -7:35)** But Pro-Life groups call PLAN B an abortion on demand pill. These critics argue wider access will increase promiscuity.

- Wendy Wright SOT (7:36 -7:48)** Making this drug nonprescription gives a false sense of security, countries like England, Scotland, and Sweden have all experienced no decrease in Pregnancy, but an increase in teen pregnancies
- Elsa Ramon on cam (7:51 -8:17)** Even though the pill will be available over the counter, pharmacists plan to keep it behind the counter so you'll actually have to go up and ask them for it, if you're over 18 to buy it. Another thing that is pointed out by those opposed to PLAN B, that 18 year olds can buy this drug for anyone, meaning they can buy it for people under 18 and people under 18 are not allowed to have it, unless they go to a doctor for it.

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Maya Kulycky

- Maya Kulycky (8:23 - 8:27)** The FDA has had there say on PLAN B, but Americans are not even close to ending the debate.
- SOT (8:28 - 8:33)** I think it should be available for women to make a choice, whether or not they want to take it.
- SOT (8:34 - 8:40)** First of all I wouldn't want to get myself in that situation, second of all if I did I would take responsibility for it. I wouldn't take a pill for it.
- SOT (8:41 - 8:52)** Makers of PLAN B are applauding the FDA's decisions, but are also dissatisfied. They say the pill should be available to women of all ages without a prescription, not just those over 18.
- Cecila Richards SOT (8:53 - 8:56)** We just think that teens should be treated like other women who have access to birth control.
- Maya Kulycky (8:57 -9:12)** Senator Hilary Clinton in a written statement said quote, "This fight is not over yet, there are questions about the age restriction and other conditions imposed by the FDA." Opponents of the pill would agree about the fight not being over.
- Wendy Wright SOT (9:13 - 9:15)** We're keeping our options open and we're exploring other options.

Maya Kulycky (9:16 - 9:33)

Preparations are being made on both sides to challenge the FDA decision in court. The FDA's Drug Chief is probably not surprised. He says the age restriction is still controversial inside his agency. There was disagreements from the first application that came in the House.

Maya Kulycky on cam (9:34 - 9:44)

PLAN B is expected to be available in non-prescription packaging by the end of the year. Right now colleges and pharmacies are deciding how they will make it available.