Emergency Contraception - Single dose progesterone only pill

Information for patients

If you have unprotected sex, or you are worried that your contraception has failed, you may be able to take a single tablet that is effective for up to 72 hours after unprotected sex. If taken within 24 hours it will stop 19 out of 20 pregnancies. The later the emergency pill is taken the lower the chance of success.

It works by releasing the hormone progesterone, which can prevent an egg being released, can delay it until a safe time, or prevent a fertilized egg from implanting. If you vomit within 2 hours of taking the pill you may need to take another dose, along with a pill to stop vomiting, but you will need to see a Dr either at your surgery or A & E for this.

Because of the way the pill works, your next period may be early, late, lighter or heavier than you expect. If you are worried, see your GP for advice.

If you should experience lower abdominal pain, please see your GP or attend A & E. You should use a barrier method of contraception for 7 days after taking the emergency pill. If it fails there is no evidence to suggest that there will be any harm to the baby.

The emergency pill should not be used as a regular form of contraception. The emergency pill will not protect from sexually transmitted infections. If you are worried about STI, please call the NHS Sexual Health Helpline on 0800 567 123 for advice.

Most women can use the emergency pill, but sometimes because of medical history, or medicines that you are taking we cannot give it to you. If this is the case, or because it is more than 72 hours since you had unprotected sex, you can ring NHS Direct on 0845 4647 to find out where your local family planning clinic is. Alternatively you can see your GP.
Languages/ Alternative Formats

Please ask if you require this information in other languages, large print or audio format. Please contact: 01895 279973

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Jezeli chcialbys uzyskac te informacje w innym języku lub w duzej czcionce popros pracownika oddzialu o kontakt pod numerem telefonu: 01895 279973

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