



Christian Voices for Life

P.O. Box 18882, Sugar Land, TX 77496

www.ChristianVoicesForLife.org

Dear Pharmacist / Pharmacy Manager / Pharmacy Assistant:

It is the responsibility to the pharmacist to inform patients about the drugs you dispense. Are you fully informing your customers of all the effects as well as the risks of contraceptive drugs?

I am sure you are aware of the “morning after pill” (“Plan B”) or “emergency contraception.” Depending on the time of the cycle when these drugs are taken, they may prevent ovulation, or they may cause the death of a preborn child by preventing implantation. Pharmacists for Life International reports that “Numerous studies support the notion that the high dose, high-powered steroid(s) found in Emergency Abortion Drugs like Plan B are abortifacient 75 to 89% of the time.”(1) In fact all hormonal birth control methods, whether the hormone is delivered by pill, patch, shot, or implant, can act to prevent implantation if conception does take place.(2,3) (Also see http://pfli.org/faq_oc.html and your Physician’s Desk Reference.)

While some people may define “pregnancy” as beginning at implantation, **there is no question that a new, unique, human life begins at the union of the egg and sperm. If implantation is blocked, that new life dies.** If you have not been aware of this action of birth control pills, it is probably because the manufacturers are not anxious for it to be known.

Most women using birth control or the morning after pill believe that they are truly preventing a new life from coming into being. By defining “pregnancy” to begin at implantation rather than conception, the manufacturers of the drugs can present the products as “preventing” and not ending “pregnancy.” This misleading language is clearly intended to avoid moral qualms concerning the ending of life.

As a pharmacist charged with educating your clients on the use of the drugs you dispense, please **make sure that everyone who purchases these drugs at your pharmacy is aware**

1. of the serious health risks of the pill: particularly, increased risk of blood clots and breast cancer. Even third generation low dose pills are associated with increased risk of stroke (4), and if the Pill is taken before a woman’s first pregnancy, there is a 44% increased risk of premenopausal breast cancer.(5) One study showed a steady increase in breast cancer among women age 25-39 from 1976 to 2009. (6)

2. that they could be conceiving a child and then killing that child with the use of these drugs.

Isn’t it true that **informed consent is a basic ethical standard in the practice of medicine?** A simple label that could be used for this purpose is shown here:

One reader who learned of the abortifacient method of birth control by reading an article online commented:

I've literally been crying for an hour after reading this.

The thought that there is a possibility that I may have killed my own child rips me apart. I've been

*on the pill 3 years now since my husband and I were married. We both just talked about this and I am now going off the pill. **We both wish we would have known this sooner.** “(7)*

Please be advised:

1. Hormonal birth control has been linked to increased risk of stroke and breast cancer.
2. It is possible for ovulation and conception to occur, and the newly conceived child to be prevented from implanting in the uterus.

If you agree that abortion is wrong, that killing a preborn child is morally offensive, how do you feel about participating in that act, by providing and dispensing drugs that are being **purchased for the purpose of “preventing” birth** – but **which, in some cases, will actually be killing a child?** Please keep in mind that the

birth control pill and morning after pill do not address any disease, but are rather being given to perfectly healthy individuals **in order to disrupt, rather than aid, the normal functioning of their bodies.**

Since most chain pharmacies do not respect the right of individual pharmacists to refuse to fill a prescription because of moral objections, it would certainly be difficult to avoid doing so. Several pharmacists have taken that step and some have lost their jobs because of doing so. But short of that courageous step, there are other steps you can take:

1. Talk to the other pharmacists and your employer about the issue. Encourage them to at least provide your customers with informed consent by always informing them of the risks and possible abortifacient action of contraceptive hormones.
2. Get permission to use a label such as shown above on all hormonal contraceptive drugs.
3. Obtain copies* of an informative brochure, such as *What a Woman Should Know about Birth Control* (8) to distribute to those purchasing contraceptive agents.
4. Obtain copies* of an informative brochure on fertility-awareness based methods of preventing pregnancy, such as *What is Natural Family Planning?* (9) to also have available for customers looking for alternatives to artificial contraception.
5. Download the pamphlet *Discontinuing Contraceptives in Your Pharmacy: One Pharmacist's Insights*. The article also addresses what employee pharmacists can do.(10)
6. Work to pass a Conscience Clause for pharmacists to be allowed to exercise their religious freedom by following their conscience in refusing to dispense drugs that they believe will be harmful to the consumer.

Please consider carefully what is the right thing to do for your customers.

Sincerely,



Marie McCoy

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* available from Christian Voices for Life. Contact Marie@ChristianVoicesforLife.org or 281-610-3986

Ref.

1. <http://www.pfli.org/main.php?pfl=planbfaq#.WkawOExFzmJ> (under Plan B [Emergency Abortion Pill] FAQs)
2. "Preventing Pregnancy, Protecting Health: A New Look at Contraceptive Choices in the United States" by Susan Harlap, Kathryn Kost, and Jacqueline Darroch Forrest (The Alan Guttmacher Institute, 1991) pp. 17-28.
3. "How Do the Pill and Other Contraceptives Work" The Polycarp Research Institute, accessed 12/29/17 at http://www.polycarp.org/how_does_the_pill_work.htm
4. Baillargeon JP, et al. Association between the current use of low dose oral contraceptives and cardiovascular arterial disease: a meta-analysis. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab.* 2005; 90(7):3863-3870
5. Kahlenborn C, et al. Oral contraceptive use as a risk factor for pre-menopausal breast cancer: a meta-analysis. *Mayo Clin Proc.* 2006; 81(10):1290-1302.
6. From: <https://www.cancer.org/latest-news/study-more-young-women-being-diagnosed-with-advanced-breast-cancer.html> American Cancer Society news - slow but steady increase in metastatic breast cancer among women 25- 39, from 1976 to 2009, from about 250 in 1976 to about 800 in 2009. The study was published in the February 27, 2013 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.
7. From <http://www.epm.org/resources/2010/Mar/21/responses-readers-does-birth-control-pill-cause-ab/>
8. <http://onemoresoul.com/catalog/what-a-woman-should-know-about-birth-control-p409.html> *
9. <https://onemoresoul.com/featured/what-is-natural-family-planning.html> *
10. <https://onemoresoul.com/downloadable-pamphlets/discontinuing-contraceptives-one-pharmacists-insights-2.html> *

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