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## Emergency Contraceptive Pills (ECP) Collaborative Agreement Protocol

This prototype ECP collaborative agreement protocol was developed using guidelines from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the World Health Organization and in consultation with physicians, pharmacists, and nurses in Washington State to meet the Washington State requirements for collaborative agreements. Please note that, as a sample, it may be modified as necessary by the authorized prescriber to ensure compliance with his or her clinical standard of practice.

As a licensed health care provider authorized to prescribe medications in the State of Washington,

I authorize \_\_\_\_\_, R.Ph., to prescribe emergency contraceptive pills (ECPs) according to the protocol that follows. The protocol provides written guidelines for initiating drug therapy in accordance with the [RCW 18.64.011](#) and [WAC 246-945-350](#) of the State of Washington.

**Purpose:** Provide access to emergency medication within required time frame and to ensure the patient receives adequate information to successfully complete therapy.

**Procedure:** When the patient requests ECPs, the pharmacist will assess the need for treatment and/or referral for contraceptive care. The pharmacist will determine the following:

- The date of the patient's last menstrual period to rule out established pregnancy.
- That the elapsed time since unprotected intercourse is less than 72 hours (or 120 hours).
- Whether the patient has been a victim of sexual assault.
- The age of the patient.

**Referrals:** If ECP services are not available at the pharmacy, the patient will be referred to another ECP provider. The pharmacist should refer the patient to see a physician or family planning clinic provider if established pregnancy cannot be ruled out or if the elapsed time since unprotected intercourse is greater than 72 hours (or as agreed upon by collaborators).

If there is a concern that the patient may have contracted a sexually transmitted disease through unprotected sex, and/or if the patient indicates that she has been sexually assaulted, the pharmacist will initiate appropriate referral while providing ECPs. When the patient is a minor and sexual assault or abuse is suspected, the pharmacist will report or cause a report to be made to Child Protective Services.

While ECPs can be used repeatedly without serious health risks, patients who request ECPs repeatedly will be referred to a physician or family planning clinic provider for use of a regular contraceptive method.

**Prophylactic Provision:** The pharmacist may also prescribe and dispense a course of ECPs to a patient in advance of the need for emergency contraception. In addition the pharmacist will counsel the patient on available options for regular contraceptive methods or offer to refer for additional contraceptive services.

**ECP Product Selection:** The pharmacist will only dispense medication from a list of products approved for emergency contraception and agreed upon as part of this agreement. The pharmacist should seek to provide the most effective ECP product to patients. The list will contain ECPs and adjunctive medications for nausea and vomiting associated with ECPs. The list will be maintained at the pharmacy and shared by all participants in the agreement. Along with the medication, patients will be provided with information concerning dosing, potential adverse effects, and follow-up contraceptive care.

