

2005 alPHa Resolution A05-1

TITLE **Improving Access to Contraception in Ontario**

SPONSOR: Perth District Health Unit

WHEREAS Levonorgestrel (Plan B™) is licensed in Canada as an emergency contraceptive, has no contraindication except pregnancy, and is not harmful to a woman's baby if taken inadvertently while pregnant; and

WHEREAS the recent classification of Plan B™ as a Schedule II drug (see background information) has led to increased costs for women and increased barriers to access; and

WHEREAS the current screening form developed by the Canadian Pharmacists Association to be administered by the dispensing pharmacist compromises a woman's right to privacy; and

WHEREAS rural and adolescent women may face excessive barriers to privacy and require more options to purchase emergency contraception; and

WHEREAS Ontario's Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines include an objective for Ontario Boards of Health to "increase access to contraception for individuals in need to decrease unplanned pregnancy" (1997:25)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the alPHa Board of Directors advocate to the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) and to the Ontario College of Pharmacists for a change in status of Plan B (tm) to an off-schedule medication available for sale at any retail outlet

AND FURTHER THAT the alPHa Board write to the Canadian Pharmacist Association requesting that the current screening interventions for Plan B (tm) be revised to decrease unreasonable barriers to access the medication and that an information sheet for distribution with purchase of the product be developed and used in the interim.

AND FURTHER THAT the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Minister of Health and Long Term Care be so advised.