



March 28, 2006

Ms. Linda Stewart  
Executive Director  
Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA)  
425 University Avenue, Suite 502  
Toronto, ON M5G 1T6

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ALPHA

Dear Ms. Stewart:

I am writing in response to your letter to the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) of February 14, 2006, regarding the ALPHA resolution A05-1, Access to Contraception.

While we appreciate your input into this issue, we do not agree that the conditions for sale inherent in the Schedule II status for emergency contraception "constitute unnecessary obstacles to its acquisition by women who need it". Pharmacists are considered one of the most accessible and trusted health professionals. With a change in the status of Plan B<sup>TM</sup> to Schedule II from prescription status, the access of this medication has been enhanced since there is no longer a mandatory physician visit. The patient may receive the health care delivery directly from their pharmacist.

Counseling is a part of a pharmacist's duty to determine appropriate therapy and ensure proper use of medications. Every day, pharmacists are put in positions where they must delicately seek personal information to help patients with their drug therapy. Pharmacists are medication experts, and being able to tactfully obtain and interpret specific information for patients contributes greatly to patient safety and quality of care. As with other professionals, it is through dialogue and gathering of information that pharmacists work with patients to achieve their treatment goals. In doing so, pharmacists are expected to collect and provide information in a respectful and confidential manner.

The decision to place Plan B<sup>TM</sup> as a Schedule II medication was not taken lightly and was based on a comprehensive review by the National Drug Scheduling Advisory Committee (NDSAC) that was subsequently endorsed by NAPRA after public consultation. We are respectfully declining your request to change the schedule status of this medication. If you would like NDSAC to conduct a full drug schedule review, information on the requirements for submitting such a request to the Committee are available from the NAPRA website ([www.napra.ca](http://www.napra.ca)) or by contacting the NAPRA office (613-569-9658).

Sincerely,

Burke Suidan  
President, NAPRA

Members

Alberta College of Pharmacists  
Canadian Armed Forces - Pharmacy Services Division  
College of Pharmacists of British Columbia  
Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association

New Brunswick Pharmaceutical Society  
Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists

Prince Edward Island Pharmacy Board  
Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists  
Yukon Government