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May 1, 2005

Notice to Pharmacists

On April 20, 2005, Health Canada announced that Plan B (levonorgestrel) is approved for sale without a physician's prescription. The change to non-prescription status was effective immediately.

Pharmacists are authorized to provide Plan B without a physician's prescription. Effective immediately, Plan B will be considered an eligible benefit without prescription by the Pharmacare and Family Services Drug Programs. In order for Provincial Drug Programs to adjudicate a claim via the Drug Programs Information Network (DPIN) for Plan B, pharmacists will be required to enter a Prescriber Identification Number into the prescriber ID field. For the purposes of making Pharmacare claims for Plan B, pharmacists are asked to use **B1111**. This Prescriber Identification Number is to be used for claims for Plan B exclusively. The quantity entered into the DPIN for 1 package of Plan B should be "2".

In addition to entering a Prescriber Identification Number, pharmacists must also enter the Personal Health Information Number (PHIN) of the patient in order for the claim to be adjudicated as a benefit. If the PHIN is not available or anonymity is requested by the patient, the patient should be advised that the claim for Plan B can not be submitted to Provincial Drug Programs via DPIN. The patient might wish instead to submit the prescription receipt by mail to Provincial Drug Programs for adjudication.

If a patient presents at the pharmacy with a prescription signed by their physician, pharmacists should follow the regular procedures and enter the Prescriber Identification Number of the signing physician into the prescriber ID field.

Pharmacists requiring further clarification may contact the DPIN Help Desk at 786-8000 or toll free at 1-800-663-7774.

For information on Emergency Contraception Care please contact the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association at (204) 233-1411.