



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY  
2300 E STREET NW  
WASHINGTON DC 20372-5300

IN REPLY REFER TO:

6710  
Ser M3/5HCS AT-68299  
26 Mar 10

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE EAST  
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE WEST  
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA  
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE SUPPORT COMMAND

Subj: PRESCRIBING, DISPENSING, AND DISTRIBUTION OF (LEVONORGESTREL 0.75MG)  
NEXT CHOICE® OR PLAN B, GENERIC TABLETS

Ref: (a) BUMED memo of 27 Feb 07 (NAVMED POLICY 07-005)  
(b) U.S Food and Drug Administration News and Events Updated Action on Plan B  
(levonorgestrel) Tablets dated 22 Apr 09  
(c) DoD Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee Recommendations  
of November 2009 pages 21-22

1. This memorandum establishes guidance on procedures for prescribing, dispensing, and distributing (levonorgestrel 0.75mg) Next Choice® and Plan B, generic tablets. Next Choice® and Plan B, generic tablets are emergency contraceptive drugs approved by the FDA for the prevention of pregnancy after a contraceptive failure or unprotected sex. Next Choice® and Plan B, generic tablets are designated as Basic Core Formulary and therefore must be on the medical treatment facility (MTF) formulary.
2. This policy memorandum supersedes reference (a).
3. Per references (b) and (c) Next Choice® and Plan B, generic tablets have been approved by the FDA as both prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) products with specific age restrictions: individuals younger than 17 will require a prescription while those 17 years of age and older do not require a prescription.
4. Responsibilities:
  - a. MTF commanders, commanding officers, and officers-in-charge will ensure that each MTF pharmacy develops and implements procedures for ordering, storage, dispensing, distributing, and accounting of Next Choice® or Plan B, generic tablets. Each MTF shall have written policy and procedure governing the OTC dispensing of Next Choice® or Plan B, generic tablets, per this policy.
  - b. Every patient receiving Next Choice® or Plan B, generic tablets will be given a patient information handout provided by the manufacturer.
  - c. Each MTF commander, commanding officer, and officer-in-charge will develop policies to ensure that patients are able to receive Next Choice® or Plan B, generic tablets when their healthcare provider or pharmacist has moral or ethical beliefs that conflict with the prescribing, dispensing, or distributing of Next Choice® or Plan B, generic tablets.
5. Policies and Procedures:
  - a. Documentation. The responsible healthcare provider will ensure that all distributions of Next Choice® or Plan B, generic tablets, whether by prescription or OTC, are entered into the patient's

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electronic medical record and the AHLTA medication profile. If AHLTA is not available, documentation will be made in the patient's paper medical record.

b. MTF Pharmacies:

(1) MTF Pharmacies shall make available and dispense Next Choice® or Plan B, generic tablets as an OTC to beneficiaries 17 years of age and older and record it in CHCS as an OTC prescription.

(2) Beneficiaries under 17 will require a non-refillable prescription for each dispensation.

(3) Males requesting Next Choice® or Plan B, generic tablets must present their military identification card and the identification card of the eligible female beneficiary who will consume the medication.

(4) Procedures for the stock and replenishment of Next Choice® or Plan B, generic tablets will be established, coordinated, and monitored by the local MTF pharmacy.

c. MTF Emergency Room (ER):

(1) ER distribution of Next Choice® or Plan B, generic tablets must be by a licensed healthcare provider and per local MTF policy.

(2) ER distribution must be directly to the patient taking the medication.

(3) Local policy governing ER distribution of Next Choice® or Plan B, generic tablets must be consistent with local policy governing ER procedures for distributing medication after the main pharmacy is closed.

5. Limitations:

a. Dispensation of Next Choice® or Plan B, generic tablets will not exceed 2 packs in 6 months per patient.

b. Additional dispensing of Next Choice® or Plan B, generic tablets to a patient in excess of 2 packs in 6 months will be by prescription. Patients will be counseled on this requirement by the person dispensing the initial pack.

6. My point of contact for questions regarding Next Choice® and Plan B, generic is Captain Stephanie Simon at (202) 762-3004 or Stephanie.Simon@med.navy.mil



A. M. ROBINSON, JR.