

There are five brands of EC pills ([Plan B® One-Step](#), [Next Choice One Dose®](#), [Next Choice®](#), [Levonorgestrel tablets](#), and [ella®](#)) approved for pregnancy prevention in the United States:

	Plan B® One-Step	Next Choice One Dose®	Next Choice®	Levonorgestrel tablets	ella®
					
Dosage	1 pill	1 pill	2 pills	2 pills	1 pill
Approval	Approved for up to 72 hours (3 days) after unprotected sex. The sooner you take these the better they work.				Approved for up to 120 hours (5 days) after unprotected sex.
Availability	Women and men age 17 or older can buy Plan B® One-Step, Next Choice One Dose®, Next Choice®, and Levonorgestrel tablets ¹ at a pharmacy without a prescription. Women age 16 or younger still need a prescription from a healthcare provider in order to buy EC at a pharmacy.				ella® is available by prescription to women of all ages. Call ahead to make sure that your pharmacy has ella® in stock.
Instructions	Take the one pill orally as soon as possible within 72 hours (3 days) after unprotected intercourse. ²		Take the first pill orally as soon as possible within 72 hours (3 days) after unprotected intercourse. Take the second pill 12 hours after the first dose. ³		Take the one pill orally as soon as possible within 120 hours (5 days) after unprotected intercourse.
Cost⁴	Plan B® One-Step ranges from \$35-\$60.	Next Choice One Dose® ranges from \$40-\$50.	Next Choice® ranges from \$30-\$55.	Levonorgestrel tablets range from \$35-\$40.	ella® can be ordered online for \$42 at http://www.ella-kwikmed.com/ . ⁵
Efficacy⁶	The efficacy of these methods decreases over the 72 hour window.				The efficacy of this method remains the same during the 120 hour window.

 **The Copper-T intrauterine device (IUD) can also be used as EC if inserted by a health care provider within 120 hours (5 days) after unprotected sex. An IUD is a small, T-shaped plastic device that is much more effective than EC pills at preventing pregnancy over the 120 hour window. The cost for emergency IUD insertion can range from \$500-\$1000. Once inserted, you can continue to use the IUD as an ongoing method of birth control for up to 12 years.**

¹ Levonorgestrel tablets are available primarily in Rite Aid pharmacies and other locations nationwide.

² The labels for Plan B® One-Step and Next Choice One Dose® say to take the pill within 72 hours after unprotected intercourse. Research has shown that it is effective when used within 120 hours after unprotected sex. *Source: Trussell J, Schwarz EB. Emergency Contraception. In Hatcher RA, Trussell J, Nelson AL, Cates W, Kowal D, Polcar MS. Contraceptive Technology: Twentieth Revised Edition. Atlanta GA: Ardent Media, 2011.*

³ The labels for Next Choice® and Levonorgestrel tablets say to take one pill within 72 hours after unprotected intercourse and another pill 12 hours later. Research has shown that both pills can be taken at the same time with no decrease in efficacy or increase in side effects and that they are effective when used within 120 hours after unprotected sex. *Source: Trussell J, Schwarz EB. Emergency Contraception. In Hatcher RA, Trussell J, Nelson AL, Cates W, Kowal D, Polcar MS. Contraceptive Technology: Twentieth Revised Edition. Atlanta GA: Ardent Media, 2011.*

⁴ Costs may vary.

⁵ You do not need an existing prescription to order ella® online at: <http://www.ella-kwikmed.com>. Each patient must complete their own online diagnostic medical assessment. The physician reviewing your medical assessment, as well as the pharmacist filling your prescription, may contact you for additional information and/or decline your request for a prescription based on the information you provide. KwikMed does not charge for its online medical consultation. The online pharmacy cannot ship ella® to North Carolina, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, and Oregon.

⁶ While the efficacy of Plan B® One-Step, Next Choice One Dose®, Next Choice®, and Levonorgestrel tablets declines over time, the efficacy of ella® does not (up to 120 hours). Research suggests that ella® is more effective than Plan B® One-Step, Next Choice One Dose®, Next Choice®, or Levonorgestrel tablets. Visit the [Emergency Contraception website](#) for more information on efficacy.