Alameda County
Health Care for the Homeless
Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

ALAMEDA COUNTY HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS
1404 Franklin Street, Suite 200
Oakland, CA 94612
TEL (510) 891-8950
FAX (510) 832-2139
www.achch.org

STANDING ORDER FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF UNINTENDED PREGNANCY

Background: Emergency contraception decreases the risk of pregnancy after intercourse but before the establishment of a pregnancy. These methods can be employed after unprotected sexual intercourse or when a client is concerned about contraception failure (i.e. broken condom or missed contraceptive pills). Emergency contraception should also be offered to clients after recent sexual assault. Emergency contraception prevents a pregnancy from occurring, it does not terminate an already existing pregnancy. Emergency contraception must be administered within a certain time frame after the high-risk sexual encounter and is not meant to be used as a regular contraceptive method.

Subjective

- Medical History, including gynecologic history and STI risk assessment. Refer to STI protocol if client requires presumptive treatment or testing for sexually transmitted infection.
- Medication history
- History of sexual encounter, including date and time to the best of the client's knowledge. Emergency contraception can be given to prevent unintended pregnancy from an encounter within the last five days.
- The threshold for offering Emergency Contraception to a client within the specified time frame who is concerned about unintended pregnancy is low, client concern outweighs specific details about type of sexual encounter or contraception.

Objective

- Rule out current pregnancy. Date of last menstrual cycle is sufficient. If unknown, offer pregnancy test.

Plan

1) Administer 30 mg of Ullipristal (Ella Oral), one time dose, to be taken as soon as possible within five days of sexual encounter.
2) Review pertinent client education points:
    a. Fertility rapidly returns after taking Ullipristal. Counsel the client on ongoing contraceptive methods.
    b. If ongoing contraceptive methods are initiated after taking Emergency Contraception, a barrier method is still required the first 14 days after EC administration.
    c. Ullipristal is not 100% effective in preventing pregnancy. If the client misses an expected menstrual cycle or experiences other symptoms of pregnancy, they should seek pregnancy testing.
    d. Menstrual bleeding patterns may be altered after administration (spotting is common)
    e. Additional common side effects include nausea/vomiting, headache, and dysmenorrhea.

Contraindications:

- Use is contraindicated in a known or suspected pregnancy.

References:

UpToDate: Patient Education: Emergency Contraception: the basics.

These orders shall remain in effect for all patients receiving medical care from Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless until rescinded.

DocuSigned by:
Clanon, Kathleen, HCSA
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Medical Director

Date

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Next Review: January 2024
Approved By: Dr. Kathleen Clanon, Medical Director, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency