

Emergency Contraception Pill and the Abortion Pill: What's the Difference?



Emergency Contraceptive Pill (EC Pills) ("Morning After Pill")

Abortion Pill

What Does It Do?	<i>Prevents</i> a pregnancy after unprotected sex	<i>Ends</i> a pregnancy
Names Of Pills	Levonorgestrel (Plan B® One-Step, Next Choice®, and others) OR Ulipristal acetate (UPA, ella®)	Mifepristone (Mifeprex®) AND Misoprostol (Cytotec®)
What's In The Pills? How Do They Work?	Most types of EC pills contain a hormone, called progestin, similar to one your body makes. Progestin is one of the hormones found in daily birth control pills. UPA contains a hormone that mimics and blocks progestin. When you are taking EC pills, they work by stopping your ovaries from releasing eggs.	<i>Mifepristone</i> stops a pregnancy from growing. <i>Misoprostol</i> causes cramping so the pregnancy comes out of the uterus.
When Do You Take It?	You can take the EC pill up to 5 days after unprotected sex. The sooner you take either EC pill, the better it works. Some packs contain 1 pill, and some packs contain 2 pills. You can take the 2 pills together.	It works in early pregnancy, up to 12 weeks after your last period.* You take mifepristone first, then misoprostol. If you can't get mifepristone, you can take misoprostol only.
How Will I Feel After Taking The Pills?	Most people feel fine. You may have nausea, vomiting, headache, dizziness, belly pain, or breast/chest pain 1-2 days after taking the pills. Your next period may come a few days early or a few days late.	After taking the first pill, most people feel fine. After using the next pills, you will have heavy bleeding, often with clots. This lasts for a couple of hours. Afterward, lighter bleeding may last 1-3 weeks. Pain varies from mild to very strong cramps off and on. Pain pills help.
How Well Does It Work?	No method of birth control is 100% effective. The sooner you take EC pills, the better they work.	The abortion pills work about 98-99% of the time. If they don't work, you may try the pills again or have an abortion procedure.
How Much Does It Cost?	EC pills cost about \$7-\$70 for one pack.	Some insurance plans now cover abortion pills.
Insurance Coverage	You can use Medicaid or private insurance with a prescription. You can call your insurance company to see which brands of EC pills they cover.	Many insurance plans now cover abortion pills.
How Do You Find It?	Get it at pharmacies, health centers, or from your clinician. Call ahead to see if they have it. You can also find progestin EC pills in vending machines or through telehealth platforms. You can get progestin EC without a prescription no matter how old you are. You need a prescription for UPA.	Ask your clinician, or go to: https://www.ineedana.com/ or https://www.plancpills.org/

*Beyond 12 weeks, consult a clinician or [M+A Hotline \(1-833-246-2632\)](https://www.mahotline.org/)