

Pharmacy Refusals

In a healthy community, pharmacies fill all valid prescriptions without discrimination or added delay. In a healthy community, Plan B emergency contraception — medication available without a prescription for individuals age 18 or older — is made available to any eligible customer in the same manner as any other non-prescription medication.

Getting Started: There are laws and policies at the federal, state, and local levels that have an impact on whether pharmacies in your community fulfill every lawful request for contraception. Before moving ahead on this checklist, refer to the Plan A Grassroots Toolkit for tips on how to find out about the laws and policies in your area. This information will be critical in helping you assess the unique situation in your community.

- 1. Can you walk into any pharmacy in your community and fill a legal prescription for contraceptives, including emergency contraception?
- 2. Can those age 18 and older obtain Plan B emergency contraception without a prescription in every pharmacy in your community?
- 3. Do pharmacies in your community have policies that allow pharmacists to refuse to fill prescriptions for contraceptives, including Plan B?
- 4. How do these pharmacies handle situations when their pharmacists refuse to fill prescriptions?
- 5. Are there 24-hour pharmacies in your community that stock Plan B?

“I want to go further...”

- 1. Have there been publicized cases of pharmacy refusals in your area?
- 2. What are the pharmacy refusal policies of the national chains that serve your community?
- 3. What are the pharmacy refusal policies of the local chains and independent pharmacies?