

### Information to give to clients before supplying EHC

Mode of Action	Unknown but thought to work by preventing ovulation and fertilisation by altering tubal transport of sperm and/or ova. It may also cause endometrial changes that discourage implantation. This means it stops pregnancy before it starts.	
Risks	<b>Coitus-to-treatment interval</b>  24 hours or less 25 – 48 hours 49 - 72 hours	<b>Percentage of expected pregnancies prevented</b>  95% 85% 58%
	Results from a recent clinical study showed that a 1500 microgram single dose of Levonorgestrel 1500mcg (taken within 72 hours of unprotected sex) prevented 84% of expected pregnancies (compared with 79% when the two 750 microgram tablets were taken 12 hours apart).	
	If the assessed risk of pregnancy is high (20-30%), the residual risk after Levonorgestrel 1500mcg may remain unacceptably high for some women. The option of an IUD with its low failure rate may be appropriate even if the woman presents within 72 hours. In such cases Levonorgestrel 1500mcg may still be supplied under the PGD.	
If already pregnant	If pregnancy is not prevented consensus of opinion is that Levonorgestrel 1500mcg emergency contraception will not have an effect on the foetus. However a normal pregnancy as in any other situation cannot be guaranteed.	
Adverse effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nausea in up to 1 in 7 women and 1 in 100 actually sick</li> <li>• Client should be advised to return if they vomit within 2 hours* of taking the dose because the treatment will not be effective and they should obtain an additional supply</li> <li>• Changes to pattern of menstrual bleeding (period may be early or late)</li> <li>• If fails – risk of ectopic pregnancy, advise client to contact GP/ Family Planning to ensure it is not ectopic</li> <li>• Occasionally tender breasts, headaches, dizziness or tiredness</li> </ul>	
Until next period	Pharmacist to stress that this only provides contraception for one episode. Clients need to either abstain from sexual intercourse or use barrier method for the remainder of the cycle unless currently using oral contraception (refer to section – advice to parents).	