You may have purchased Emergency Contraception (EC) for a variety of reasons, including contraceptive failure and unplanned sex. Below is some important information that may apply to you, or to someone you know, including a partner or friend.

**Instructions**

- Take EC by mouth as soon as possible after unprotected intercourse.
- **EC is most effective if taken within 24 hours of unprotected intercourse.** The manufacturer’s instructions suggest the pill be taken within 72 hours for maximum effectiveness; however EC can be taken up to 5 days (120 hours) after intercourse with some benefit.

  *The longer the interval between unprotected intercourse and EC, the less effective it will be.*

- Some women experience minor side effects like nausea. **If you vomit within one hour of taking EC,** call Gannett to speak with a nurse (255-5155). Although this is not a serious health threat, you may need to repeat the dose.
- Some women experience a change in their menstrual cycle after the use of Emergency Contraception. Your period may start a few days earlier or later than usual. **If you do not get your period within three weeks of taking EC,** a pregnancy test is recommended.

**Considerations**

- EC is a safe option for nearly all women who have had unprotected intercourse with a man and who do not want to become pregnant.
- EC does not protect against sexually transmitted infections (STI). If you have concerns about being exposed to an STI, please speak with a Gannett nurse by phone (255-5155, available 24/7) or in-person.
- EC will not provide pregnancy protection against future unprotected intercourse.
- EC is helpful in reducing risk of pregnancy after unprotected intercourse, but is not as effective as other methods of contraception.
- If you do not already use regular birth control (e.g., oral contraceptive pills, condoms, NuvaRing, etc.) and you have sex with men, consider talking with a Gannett clinical counselor or nurse about birth control options. (Call 255-5155 for an appointment.) This free appointment can help you decide what might work best for you.
- If you are currently using oral contraceptive pills, restart them the day after you take EC. Do not have vaginal sex, or use a back-up method (e.g., condoms) according to the following recommendations:

  - If you have taken progestin-only EC (e.g., Plan B, next choice), until you have taken seven pills in a row.
  - If you have taken ella, until you have finished your current pill pack and begin another.

- Non-prescription birth control and safer sex supplies (e.g., condoms, spermicides) are available for purchase at the Gannett Pharmacy.

**Unwanted or forced sexual contact**

If the need for EC is due to an unwanted or forced sexual encounter, we are available to talk with you, provide care, and offer support.

- Gannett staff members are available by phone 24 hours a day to provide information to survivors of sexual assault.

We can offer confidential medical care and advocacy services to help you decide what you need, and what support networks would be most helpful.

- You may benefit from being examined for physical injury and infection after an assault. Post-assault medical treatment and support are available at Gannett by calling 255-5155.

- If there is any chance you may consider criminal action or want to keep that option open, seek medical care at Cayuga Medical Center (CMC), located at 101 Dates Drive in Ithaca, as soon as possible. (If seeking this care immediately, do not bathe, shower, douche or change clothes before you go.) The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program at CMC provides specially-trained nurses who offer care and treatment to survivors of assault. To access the SANE Program, call the Advocacy Center’s 24 hour hotline (277-5000) or call the CMC Emergency Department (274-4411) before leaving for CMC.

- Cornell’s Victim Advocate can offer support, resources, judicial and legal information, and assistance regarding academic pressures. The service is free and confidential. Call 255-1212 to schedule an appointment.

- Post-assault counseling services are available through Gannett’s Counseling and Psychological Services (255-5155).

- You can find further information about sexual assault on Gannett’s website: www.gannett.cornell.edu

**Alcohol and EC**

If your use of alcohol or other drugs (AOD) played a role in your need for EC and/or you would like to explore your AOD use in a non-judgmental, supportive setting, call Gannett Health Promotion (255-4782) for a free and confidential appointment.

**For more information**

- Read the booklet included in the EC package for more detailed information.
- Visit www.not-2-late.com