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To Vermont Pharmacists:

August, 2008

We invite your attendance to the upcoming training on Emergency Contraception and Collaborative Practice. This is a repeat of the training that was held in South Burlington in September, 2007. You are encouraged to attend this training, as the awarded CE's are required before a pharmacist is able to engage in a collaborative practice with a prescriber in order to dispense emergency contraception.

We hope to see you in Rutland on Sunday, September 21, 2008 for this second presentation of the information on Collaborative Practice and EC. Please contact us if you have more questions.

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We are providing the following content from the July 2007 Pharmacy Board Newsletter to assist in reminding you of the history of Collaborative Practice and Emergency Contraception.

JULY 2007: New Law Allows Emergency Contraception Collaborative Practice to Begin:
Vermont's Act 101 allows pharmacists who have taken a Pharmacy Board approved training program to enter into a collaborative practice agreement with a Vermont prescriber in order to dispense emergency contraception directly from the pharmacy.

The History of Act 101: In the spring of 2006, the Vermont legislature passed Act 101, An Act Relating to Emergency Contraception. This law allowed for emergency contraception (usually Levonorgestrel or Plan B) to be dispensed to women of all ages via collaborative practice. The protocol for prescribing emergency contraception is set by rules written by the Department of Health in collaboration with the Board of Pharmacy. The rules set up the system for pharmacists and prescribers to enter into a system of collaborative practice so as to allow the pharmacist to distribute EC medications without a direct prescription. This system of obtaining emergency contraception via collaborative practice is place in eight other states and is designed to allow ready access to this time-sensitive medication. While Vermont was creating the state's legislative rules for Act 101, in August of 2006 the FDA loosened the ban on EC and allowed Plan B to be dispensed by pharmacists to women 18 years and older who can demonstrate proof of age. This FDA ruling has made it a somewhat easier for women to obtain EC, but the system still isn't perfect. The Vermont collaborative practice system is still necessary for women who are under 18 years of age or those who would like to bill their insurance for the cost of the medication.

In order to participate in collaborative practice, pharmacists need to attend a board-approved training session. The session will review the basics of emergency contraception and also the logistics of working within a collaborative practice. This system has been in place for a few years in Maine and New Hampshire, and for several years in Washington State, so lessons learned from those states will be discussed. Don Downing, RPh from the University of Washington School of Pharmacy will be the main faculty for the training. The tentative date for this training is Sunday, September 30, 2007 – announcements will be issued with the final date, site of the training, and registration details. The Board of Pharmacy has pre-approved this training for 3 ½ hours of continuing education credit.

The Vermont Pharmacists' Association announces an educational session:

Emergency Contraception and Collaborative Practice

Sunday, September 21, 2008 at 5:00PM

Leahy Conference Center

Rutland Regional Medical Center, Rutland, VT

This educational session will provide a comprehensive training on Emergency Contraception (EC). This training has been approved by the Vermont Board of Pharmacy for 3.5 CE. The Vermont Collaborative Practice Agreement, as enacted by the Vermont Legislature, allows pharmacists, in collaboration with a physician or other prescriber, to dispense EC to Vermont women whose access to EC still requires a prescription despite the FDA's ruling on EC and over-the-counter status. The statute also requires training for collaborative pharmacists, which is satisfied by attendance at this training. **All registered Vermont pharmacists may participate.** This program is a repeat of the first EC training that was held in South Burlington in September, 2007. *A light supper will be provided.*

Faculty: Don Downing, RPh, Clinical Associate Professor
Department of Pharmacy, University of Washington School of Pharmacy
Seattle, Washington

Please Register by: **Monday, September 15th**

You may register by email or regular mail

There is no registration fee

1. Email: vtpa@sover.net. Please write "Collaborative CE" in the subject.
2. Mail: Complete the form below, stamp and mail to:

Vermont Pharmacists' Association
PO Box 90, Woodstock, VT 05091

Questions: James Marmar: (877) 483-2646; Rupesh Asher: (802) 872-8296

*** Registration Form***

Yes, I will be attending the EC collaborative Practice Training on September 21, 2008

Name: _____

Address: _____

Practice Location: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____