**Emergency Contraceptive Pill vs. Abortion Pill**

Emergency Contraception Pill (ECP) and the Abortion Pill (Mifegymiso) are not the same. The chart below outlines the main differences between the two medications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What does it do?</th>
<th>Emergency Contraceptive Pill (ECP)</th>
<th>Abortion Pill (Mifegymiso)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prevents a pregnancy from occurring</td>
<td>Ends a pregnancy that has already begun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Names of pills**

- Levonorgestrel (Plan B, Norlevo, Option 2 and NextChoice)
- Mifepristone and misoprostol (Mifegymiso)

**What’s in the pills? How do they work?**

- **Emergency Contraceptive Pill**
  - Most ECPs contain progestin – similar to the contents of birth control pills, but taken in higher doses
  - Temporarily prevents release of egg from ovary
  - Prevents fertilization
  - Prevents fertilized egg from attaching to uterus

- **Abortion Pill**
  - Mifegymiso works to block the effect of progesterone (a hormone needed for the continuation of a pregnancy) via mifepristone, and causes contractions of the uterus and relaxation of the cervix via the prostaglandin misoprostol

**When do you take it?**

- **Emergency Contraceptive Pill**
  - Within 72 hours of unprotected sex or contraceptive failure

- **Abortion Pill**
  - Within 9 weeks of last menstrual period

**What are the symptoms?**

- **Emergency Contraceptive Pill**
  - Most common: Nausea (14-23%), vomiting (6%), irregular menstrual bleeding
  - Less common: breast tenderness, headache, dizziness, fatigue, lower abdominal pain, diarrhea

- **Abortion Pill**
  - Most common: Cramping accompanied by heavy bleeding
  - Less common: Chills, fever, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, diarrhea, headache

**How effective is it?**

- **Emergency Contraceptive Pill**
  - Approximately 75% effective

- **Abortion Pill**
  - Approximately 95% effective

**How much does it cost?**

- **Emergency Contraceptive Pill**
  - Between $30-40, reduced cost
  - Plan B available through Public Health

- **Abortion Pill**
  - Between $300 - $460

**Where to find it**

- **Emergency Contraceptive Pill**
  - Available at pharmacies and at Public Health.

- **Abortion Pill**
  - Prescribed by a trained physician