

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.

	Emergency Contraceptive Pill (ECP)	Abortion Pill (Mifegymiso)
What does it do?	Prevents a pregnancy from occurring	Ends a pregnancy that has already begun
Names of pills	Levonorgestrel (Plan B, Norlevo, Option 2 and NextChoice)	Mifepristone and misoprostol (Mifegymiso)
What's in the pills? How do they work?	Most ECPs contain progestin – similar to the contents of birth control pills, but taken in higher doses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporarily prevents release of egg from ovary • Prevents fertilization • Prevents fertilized egg from attaching to uterus 	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?	Within 72 hours of unprotected sex or contraceptive failure	Within 9 weeks of last menstrual period
What are the symptoms?	Most common: Nausea (14-23%), vomiting (6%), irregular menstrual bleeding Less common: breast tenderness, headache, dizziness, fatigue, lower abdominal pain, diarrhea	Most common: Cramping accompanied by heavy bleeding Less common: Chills, fever, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, diarrhea, headache
How effective is it?	Approximately 75% effective	Approximately 95% effective
How much does it cost?	Between \$30-40, reduced cost Plan B available through Public Health	Between \$300 - \$460
Where to find it	Available at pharmacies and at Public Health.	Prescribed by a trained physician