

# Pregnancy Protection After Sexual Assault: Your Right To Emergency Contraception

## **Beginning January 1, 2008, Oregon law\* requires hospitals to:**

- Inform sexual assault or rape victims about emergency contraception (EC) and treatment options, and
- Provide EC pills upon request to sexual assault or rape victims before they leave the hospital.

## **What are EC pills?**

- EC pills prevent pregnancy after unprotected sex.
- EC pills have the same hormone used in birth control pills.
- EC pills are very safe and effective.

## **EC pills do NOT:**

- EC pills will not work if you are already pregnant.
- EC pills do not cause an abortion.
- EC pills do not protect against sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS.

## **When do I take EC?**

- EC pills work best when taken soon after a rape or sex without birth control.
- EC pills can be taken up to 5 days (120 hours) after a rape or sex without birth control.

## **You Have a Right to Get and Use Emergency Contraception.**

\* OAR 333-520-0000, ORS Chapter 441.

If you are a sexual assault victim who is not offered EC information or is refused EC in the hospital, call DHS Health Care Licensure and Certification at 971-673-0540 in Portland between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m (Pacific time).

Prepared by the DHS Public Health Division,  
Reproductive Health Section. (11/07)

