

Policy makes Plan B more accessible to American Indian women

October 16 2015, by Felicia Fonseca

The federal Indian Health Service has finalized a policy that makes emergency contraception more accessible to American Indian women.

The written policy released this week requires the [morning-after pill](#) to be available to women of any age over the counter at IHS facilities, no questions asked.

Previously, American Indian women had to consult with a provider and get a prescription for the medication that was dispensed on site.

Women's health advocates have said the process was time-consuming and burdensome.

The medication was made available to women 17 years and older at IHS pharmacies under a verbal directive in 2013.

Health advocates pushed IHS for a written policy in line with a 2013 U.S. Food and Drug Administration decision to lift age limits and make it available without a prescription.

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