

## HRA PHARMA: RESTRICTED ACCESS TO EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION IS A BACKWARDS STEP FOR WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS

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**JUNE 26, 2017:** HRA Pharma, a pioneer company in Emergency contraception, believes the decision by the Polish Government to limit access to emergency contraception is a backwards step for women's reproductive health rights. The decision to make ellaOne® prescription-only is a political decision made against the recommendation from the European Medicine Agency which advocates pharmacy access to this treatment.

Frédérique Welgryn, Chief Operating Officer at HRA Pharma comments: "We are concerned about the impact that this decision will have on timely and affordable access to this important treatment for women during their time of need. Women have just a small window of opportunity to avoid an unplanned pregnancy and it is therefore important that there are no barriers to accessing emergency contraception."

It is HRA Pharma's view that availability of emergency contraception without a prescription from pharmacy is an essential service, particularly as many doctors' surgeries are not open at the weekend, during public holidays or at unsociable hours, yet these products are most effective when taken as soon as possible after unprotected sex. Availability in pharmacy is therefore critical to enable timely access to oral emergency contraception and pharmacists are highly trained healthcare professionals who are ideally placed to offer this service to women.

Following the 2014 recommendation from the European Medicines Agency and 2015 decision from the European Commission that emergency contraception should be available without a prescription, real world data from over 25 European countries has demonstrated that ellaOne® has been used safely and effectively when sourced directly from pharmacy without a prescription.

Frédérique Welgryn concludes: "A number of inaccurate statements have been circulated as part of this debate around emergency contraception in Poland. HRA Pharma wishes to stress that all credible scientific bodies worldwide recognise emergency contraception to be a safe and important back-up contraceptive option."

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For further information, please contact HRA Pharma or Golin Health:

- Karina Bugnon, [k.bugnon@hra-pharma.com](mailto:k.bugnon@hra-pharma.com), +33 1 40 33 66 02
- Zosia Kotas, [zkotas@golin.com](mailto:zkotas@golin.com), 0207 067 0527
- Kelli Engel, [kengel@golin.com](mailto:kengel@golin.com), 0207 067 0657

## **Essential information**

### **About ellaOne**

ellaOne is an emergency contraceptive pill.<sup>1</sup> It is the most effective 'morning-after' pill available to women when taken in the first 24 hours after unprotected sexual intercourse.<sup>2,3</sup>

ellaOne is a single tablet that contains 30mg of ulipristal acetate.<sup>2</sup> Its primary function is to inhibit or delay ovulation.<sup>2</sup> The treatment is one tablet to be taken orally as soon as possible, but no later than five days after unprotected intercourse or contraceptive failure.<sup>1</sup>

ellaOne is for women of reproductive age who want to avoid unplanned pregnancy.<sup>1</sup>

For additional information please visit [www.ellaOne.com](http://www.ellaOne.com)

### **About HRA Pharma**

HRA Pharma is a fast growing, innovative consumer healthcare company, empowering people throughout the world to improve their lives by developing accessible, value added, self-care solutions. Historically centered on women's health, the company has become the European leader in emergency contraception. With ambitious projects in the pipeline, including innovative Rx-to-OTC switches, HRA Pharma is committed to bringing a range of innovative products and services to market, particularly in areas of unmet customer needs. Headquartered in Paris, France with subsidiaries across Western Europe and a global network of local partners covering over 90 countries, the company has a proven structure, the skills and experience to capture new consumer healthcare businesses and deliver high quality brands on a global scale. Visit [www.hra-pharma.com](http://www.hra-pharma.com) for more information.

### **References:**

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<sup>1</sup> EMC. *Summary of Product Characteristics: ellaOne 30mg* [online] 28 January 2015. Available from: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/EMC/medicine/22280/SPC/ellaOne+30+mg/> [Last accessed: 21 January 2016]

<sup>2</sup> Glasier AF et al. *The Lancet* 2010; 375: 555-562.

<sup>3</sup> ISGE Statement on Emergency Contraception, *Gynecol Endocrinol*, 2014; 30(10): 681-682