**QUESTIONS AND FACTS**

1. **What is emergency contraception (EC)?**
   **ANSWER:** Emergency contraception, also known as “Plan B”, the “Morning After Pill”, or Ella, is a birth control used to prevent pregnancy after vaginal sex during which the contraception method has failed (ex. broken condom) or may not have been used (can’t remember if it was used). EC is more effective the sooner it is used, up to 5 days.

2. **Will emergency contraception protect me from sexually transmitted infections (STIs)?**
   **ANSWER:** No. Emergency contraception can only lower the risk of becoming pregnant after having unprotected sex. Always use condoms to lower your risk of getting an STI.

3. **Can I get emergency contraception without a doctor’s prescription?**
   **ANSWER:** Yes and No . . . Anyone aged 15 and over can get Plan B. Ella (which is effective for women who weigh more than 160 pounds) is available through Student Health Center Pharmacy and requires a prescription. To make an appointment, please call 618/536-2391.

4. **How long should you wait to take emergency contraception?**
   **ANSWER:** Don’t Wait! Take the pill as soon as possible after unprotected or protection failure sexual contact. It will reduce your risk of pregnancy if taken less than 120 hours (five days) after unprotected intercourse.

5. **Where can you get emergency contraception?**
   **ANSWER:** SIU Pharmacy, local pharmacies (24 hour), health departments, and some clinics. (See resources)

6. **Where can I get information on EC?**
   **ANSWER:** Planned Parenthood provides information and addresses questions and concerns related to E.C. [https://www.plannedparenthood.org/](https://www.plannedparenthood.org/)