



IMPLEMENTING EC ACCESS

A MARYLAND SPECIFIC QUICK GUIDE

1 CONTRACEPTION ACCESS

Provide on campus access to over the counter contraception, including emergency contraception through the health center, retail establishments or vending machines.

2 REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EDUCATION

Provide evidence based reproductive health education resources, available upon request by the student health center, peer educators or other health education programs.

3 REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES PLAN

Develop a comprehensive plan to provide or refer for the full range of reproductive health services including STI prevention & treatment, abortion services and all FDA approved methods of contraception.



NUTS & BOLTS OF EC VENDING MACHINES

There are many, many different models for how vending machines operate on college campuses. Here are some things to consider as you decide on a method for your EC vending machine.



WELLNESS VENDING MACHINE BEST PRACTICES

- Check expiration dates often and keep EC stored between 68-77 degrees
- Prioritize affordability of emergency contraception; keep the price as close to \$5 as possible
- Balance visibility and privacy when considering machine location Include a range of products in the machine
- Offer a variety of payment options (credit cards, student cards, and cash)
- When considering location, Think about accessibility, privacy, and convenience. If you're on a large campus consider multiple machines in different locations.
- Once you have your vending machine on campus, spread the word! Flyer/sticker around campus, use social media, and Reach out to resident advisors and anyone else who works directly with students in an advisory/support role

MODEL 1: MODEL 1: WORK WITH YOUR CAMPUS VENDING CONTRACTOR

Find out if there is an exclusive vending contract on your campus. If so, it is likely that you'll need to approach this company first. Ask the company to include EC in at least one of the machines or add a new machine to include EC and other wellness products. If your vending company declines to include EC in the machines, you may be able to get an exemption to the contract to provide EC in a different machine. Make sure that the vending company understands the importance of affordability, and include in the contract that EC should cost no more than \$10 (less, if possible). Maintenance and servicing should be available through your vending company.

MODEL 2: HIRE AN OUTSIDE VENDING COMPANY

Outside vending companies may be able to provide a full-service wellness kiosk, including sourcing products, stocking, and maintenance. Vending is often a very local business, so search for companies that specifically service your area. Some national companies such as SimpliChek can provide a full-service solution that includes EC. Ensure that affordability is a priority. Some companies offer a percent of sales back to the host site; consider using this to reduce the price of EC in the machine. Initial setup costs (~\$2,000-5,000) and monthly lease or service fees (~\$200-700/month) can add up; this option may not be the best for campuses with a limited budget.

MODEL 3: DO IT YOURSELF!

Managing the entire process of procuring and stocking the machine is often the most cost effective solution .It allows you to control product options and pricing, but also involves the most ongoing effort. If your campuses owns the existing vending machines, see if there's a place to add EC. This could even mean removing a row of chips to add EC! Find out if there are any out-of-service vending machines available on your campus that can be repurposed. Vending machines can be purchased for \$1,000-\$10,000 - the price varies by size, features, and whether it's new or refurbished. Ongoing maintenance is important. Before you purchase, find out if your campus facilities team can perform basic repairs to the machine and payment systems. If not, look for a local company that you can call for maintenance needs.



ASEC IS HERE TO HELP!

If you run into problems and need some additional support, ASEC may be able to help. Reach out to the EC4EC team at jakeya@americansocietyforec.org

WHAT PRODUCTS WILL THE MACHINE INCLUDE?

EC, of course! Other sexual health products such as condoms, lube, and pregnancy tests. Menstrual products, including reusable menstrual cups or discs. Harm-reduction supplies. General-use products, like first-aid kits and ibuprofen, that anyone could need. This helps students get the products that they need, and also helps with privacy so it's not obvious what someone is purchasing from the machine.

HOW MUCH WILL THE PRODUCTS COST?

Affordability is key. Vending machines are important for addressing issues of privacy and access, and they can also help solve cost issues. EC can cost \$40-50 at the pharmacy, but the wholesale cost is nowhere near that. Several campuses have found that they can offer EC for a low price (under \$10) and still ensure that the proceeds cover the costs of operating the machine.

WHAT PAYMENT SYSTEM WILL WE USE?

Most modern vending machines will offer a credit card payment option. Ideally, EC vending machines will offer multiple methods of payment including campus card, mobile pay, and cash options.

HANDLING OPPOSITION

You may find that certain individuals or groups on campus work against your efforts to make EC more available. This may be due to misunderstanding of what EC is and how it works, or misconceptions about the long term safety of EC. Check out ASEC's [Myths & Truths](#) about emergency contraception to learn about some common myths that you may hear from EC opponents, and how to counter those claims.

Keep in Mind:

- You don't need to respond to every false claim or attack.
- Spend energy on issues that are of specific concern to the decision-makers on your campus.
- Focus on providing useful, factual information.
- Share positive messages about what EC is, why it's important, and how it helps people.
- Be prepared for potential pushback from administrators, students, faculty, religious institutions, and community members.
- It's important to demonstrate that you have a strong base of support on campus.
- Remember, the provision of emergency contraception vending machines is not just a campus initiative; it's backed by Maryland state law. Even in the face of opposition, it's crucial for campus administrators to stand united in upholding and implementing this legal requirement.
- If you think parents might be concerned, please offer them ASEC's fact sheet for parents to provide background information about EC and it's importance for college students.

COMPANIES THAT SELL EC FOR ~\$5

Afaxys (EContra One-Step)	melissa.mccann@afaxys.com
Cadence OTC (Morning After Pill)	chun@cadenceotc.com
Curae Pharma (Levonorgestrel 1.5mg)	snair@curaepharma.com DemaCare BioSciences
DemaCare BioSciences (PostDay)	kelly@dermacarepkg.com
HPSRx (My Way)	becky@hpsrx.com
Bonita Pharma (My Way)	https://bonitapharma.com/asec



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