

June 21, 2018

Dear Working Group member,

We are excited to share an important milestone in the effort to move a birth control pill over the counter (OTC) in the US: pharmaceutical company **HRA Pharma has now initiated an actual use study to provide important data for their application to the FDA to switch a progestin-only birth control pill from prescription to OTC status.** This type of research study is commonly required by the FDA for applications to move a product from prescription-only to OTC and to assess whether interested users can appropriately determine whether they need the product, make a correct decision about whether the product is appropriate for them, and correctly use the medication.

The start of this study is one of several critical stepping stones on the path to FDA approval of an OTC birth control pill. We are thrilled about this accomplishment and hope you are excited to join us as we continue to build up our efforts in support of an OTC birth control pill--one that is affordable, covered by insurance, and available without an age restriction.

We wanted to share this news so you can celebrate this landmark moment with us. The efforts of the working group have been critical in getting to this point and we want to take a moment to thank all of you for the contributions you have made so far, and for standing with us as we continue our work to expand access to contraception by helping to make a birth control pill available over the counter. We do not, however, encourage sharing news of this specific study with your networks in order to avoid interfering with the the recruitment efforts that have been planned for this study. To show your support right now, please share the following message to help spread the word about our campaign with your social media followers:

It's time to #FreeThePill! No one should be denied the ability to get a safe & effective birth control pill due to unnecessary barriers. [[Click here to tweet](#)]

Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to discuss ways your organization can be involved in efforts to #FreeThePill.

I also wanted to let you know that I am back from parental leave. I am excited to reengage with you all on this work!

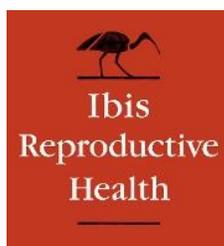
Thank you for all your support,

Kate Grindlay Kelly
Project Director/Associate

About us

The Oral Contraceptives (OCs) Over-the-Counter (OTC) Working Group is a coalition of reproductive health, rights, and justice organizations, nonprofit research and advocacy groups, university-based researchers, and prominent clinicians who share a commitment to providing all women of reproductive age easier access to safe, effective, acceptable, and affordable contraceptives. The working group was established in 2004 to explore the potential of over-the-counter access to oral contraceptives to reduce disparities in reproductive health care access and outcomes, and to increase opportunities for women to access a safe, effective method of contraception, free of unnecessary control, as part of a healthy sexual and reproductive life.

The working group is coordinated by Ibis Reproductive Health.



www.ibisreproductivehealth.org

Contact us

For questions or inquiries, please contact us at:

Ibis Reproductive Health
2067 Massachusetts Ave, Suite 320
Cambridge, MA 02140
Tel.: 617-349-0040
Fax: 617-349-0041
Email: OCsOTC@ocsotc.org

www.OCsOTC.org

www.FreethePill.org

[Facebook](#)