

April 30, 2013

**Dear Working Group Member,**

ThinkProgress published a viewpoint piece today, [Why Birth Control Needs to Be Both Over the Counter and On Your Insurance Plan](#), which was coauthored by several members of the working group. The piece highlights the welcome new clarification that over-the-counter contraceptives must be covered without cost sharing under the ACA's preventive health services requirements. But a woman must get a prescription in order to get that coverage, and the piece argues that insurers should not require a prescription in order to ensure women's easier and more timely access to OTC emergency contraception and a future OTC oral contraceptive pill.

Coauthors of the piece include Kathy Ko Chin from the [Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum](#); Elizabeth Dawes Gay from the [Reproductive Health Technologies Project](#); Kimberly Inez McGuire from the [National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health](#); Belle Taylor-McGhee, a journalist and consultant who serves on the [San Francisco Health Commission](#); Cherisse Scott from [SisterReach](#); Britt Wahlin from [Ibis Reproductive Health](#); and myself.

We encourage you to share the article on your personal or organizational Facebook page and Twitter account. If you link to the article on Twitter please include the hashtags #OCsOTC and #freethepill.

Thanks,

Daniel Grossman, MD  
Vice President for Research, Ibis Reproductive Health

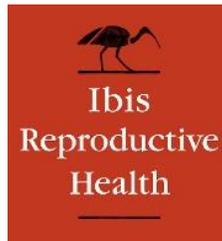
## Get involved in the OCs OTC Working Group!

There are several ways you can get involved in the working group. 1) "Like" us on our [Facebook page](#)! 2) Sign on to our [statement of purpose](#). We welcome both institutional and individual endorsements. 3) Write a blog post, op-ed, or piece in your organization's newsletter or campus newspaper. If you are interested in this, we would be happy to help provide feedback and background articles, as well as help you think about ways to frame the piece. 4) Tweet about OCs OTC using the hashtags #OCsOTC and #freethepill. 5) Email [Dan](#) or [Kate](#) with any questions, comments, feedback, or other ideas.

## About us

The Oral Contraceptives (OCs) Over-the-Counter (OTC) Working Group is an informal coalition of reproductive health and rights organizations, nonprofit research and advocacy groups, university-based researchers, and prominent clinicians who share an interest in women's health and access to contraception. Our goal is to evaluate objectively the risks and benefits of demedicalizing contraceptive care, with an eye toward improving access to OCs and potentially other hormonal contraceptive methods by making them available without a prescription.

The working group is coordinated by Ibis Reproductive Health.



[www.ibisreproductivehealth.org](http://www.ibisreproductivehealth.org)

## Contact us

**For questions or inquiries, please contact us at:**

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