

Further need for EC awareness and access

On behalf of the Compassionate Care for Rape Victims Coalition (CCRV), a diverse group of organizations dedicated to ensuring comprehensive health care for rape victims, I wish to further address the issues raised in the recently published paper titled "Emergency Contraception in Wisconsin: A Review." (*WMJ*. 2006;105(5):40.

In the paper, a 2001 study cited that "only 51% of [Wisconsin hospitals] reported that their hospitals prescribe emergency contraception in all cases." The CCRV Coalition wishes to share more recent survey results showing that only 33% of Wisconsin hospital emergency de-

partments are providing consistent access to emergency contraception to victims of rape.

From December 2005 to April 2006, the CCRV Coalition conducted a survey of 123 Wisconsin hospital emergency departments to determine what policies regarding EC were in place. An astonishing 89% response rate was achieved. The focus of this survey was whether hospital emergency departments were providing information about, and access to, emergency contraception for victims of sexual assault. A CCRV Survey Highlight Report details the results of this survey.

Following the release of the results, which concluded that 42% of Wisconsin emergency departments did not have a standard policy to

dispense emergency contraception on-site to victims of rape, the CCRV Coalition developed a toolkit to help ensure all rape victims have access to compassionate and comprehensive care at Wisconsin hospitals. Copies of the toolkit were mailed to every Wisconsin hospital emergency department in early July.

The CCRV Coalition encourages all Wisconsin health professionals to join in their efforts to ensure emergency contraception access for both rape victims and all Wisconsin women. To review the CCRV Survey Report and Toolkit, please visit: www.wiawh.org.

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