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COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS
OF SASKATCHEWAN
TO COUNCIL

FROM: Registrar

SUBJECT: **Article**
– Alberta Doctor Refuses to Prescribe Birth Control Over her Morality

For Your Information

Alberta doctor refuses to prescribe birth control over her morality

Written by TRISTAN BRONCA on June 30, 2014 for [The Medical Post](#)

A doctor at a walk-in clinic in southwest Calgary has sparked controversy by refusing to prescribe birth control because of her moral beliefs, the *Calgary Herald* reported.

This is something you find in really conservative places in the U.S.

While Dr. Chantal Barry was on duty at the Westglen Medical Centre, she posted a notice at the front desk explaining she would not prescribe the contraceptive.

Clinic staff confirmed that this is Dr. Barry's personal preference and that patients are provided with a list of other doctors in the city that will prescribe the pill.

One patient, Joan Chand'oiseau, was "shocked and outraged" by the notice and later told the *Herald* the doctor's belief system shouldn't play a part in the reproductive health of patients.

The president and CEO of the Calgary Sexual Health Centre, Pam Krause, said she's aware of doctors who refuse to make abortion referrals but refusing to prescribe birth control is "virtually unheard of" in the province.

"This is something you find in really conservative places in the U.S.," she told the *Herald*. She also said the birth control pill is one of the most highly demanded prescriptions.

Westglen has only one walk-in clinic doctor on duty at a time and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta has no policy that requires the clinic have another on-hand to prescribe the pill.

However, the CPSA's policy states the refusing doctor must ensure the patient has access to another practitioner who will prescribe the drug.
