



32 E 1st St. Suite 300, Duluth, MN 55802
218-727-3352
www.wehealthclinic.org

Name: _____
DOB: _____ Age: ____
Date: _____

CONSENT FOR IN-CLINIC SUCTION ABORTION

What is an in-clinic suction abortion?

An in-clinic suction abortion occurs in the clinic at WE Health Clinic (WHC) and suction is used to take the pregnancy out of your uterus.

Before you have an abortion, you need to know the most common benefits, risks, side effects, emotional reactions, and other choices you have. We are happy to answer any questions you have.

What are the benefits of the in-clinic suction abortion?

It is a safe and effective way to end a pregnancy.

What are the side effects of the in-clinic suction abortion?

Side effects do not usually last long and don't need to be treated. Call WHC if the problem doesn't go away or you are worried. Common side effects include:

- **Light or medium bleeding**—If your bleeding is heavy, soaking more than two (2) maxi pads for two (2) hours in a row, call WHC.
- **Cramping**
- **Feeling tired**

What feelings do people have after abortion?

Having a wide range of feelings is normal. Most people feel relieved and do not regret their decision. Others may feel sad, guilty, or regret after an abortion just as they may after having a baby. If your mood keeps you from doing the things you usually do each day, call us. We can help or refer you to someone who can.

Besides an in-clinic suction abortion, what other choices do I have?

If you are pregnant, you have three options to think about—abortion, adoption, and parenting. If you choose abortion and are less than ten (10) weeks pregnant, you may be able to use the abortion pill. You can also have an in-clinic suction abortion at WHC, now or later in your pregnancy. There are more risks the longer you wait to have an abortion. We can talk about any of these options with you and help you with whatever you decide to do.

What are the risks of the in-clinic suction abortion?

Abortion is very safe. However there are risks with any medical procedure. Your risks may be higher if you not healthy or have had a C-section or certain other surgeries.

Risk also goes up the longer you are pregnant.

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Risks associated with the in-clinic suction abortion are:

- **Incomplete abortion**—This means some of the pregnancy tissue may be left inside the uterus. This may lead to heavy bleeding, infection, or both. If this happens, a suction procedure may need to be done again. Other tests or treatments may also be needed.
- **Blood clots in the uterus**—Clots may cause cramping and abdominal pain. A suction procedure may need to be done again.
- **Infection of the uterus**—Most infections can be found and treated with medication. There is a small chance that a suction procedure may be done again, you may have to go to the hospital, or even have surgery to treat the infection.
- **The pregnancy doesn't end**—Sometimes the abortion does not end the pregnancy. It may be because the pregnancy was not in the uterus or for some other reason. If the pregnancy is ectopic (not in the uterus), you will need to see a doctor who can treat it or go to the emergency room right away. Some people may need medication and others may need surgery. If the pregnancy is still in the uterus, a suction procedure may need to be repeated or medication may be used.
- **Heavy bleeding (hemorrhage)**—This may require treatment with medication, a repeat suction procedure, blood transfusion, and/or surgery—including possible hysterectomy (removal of the uterus).
- **Injury to the cervix (opening to the uterus)**—This may be treated with medication or rarely with stitches.
- **Injury to the uterus or other organs**—A surgical instrument may go through the wall of the uterus, which could damage organs inside the body like the intestines, bladder, or blood vessels. Treatment may mean just watching and waiting for a while or surgery on your abdomen. There is a small chance that a hysterectomy (removal of the uterus) may be needed. Scars may develop inside the uterus, which may need to be treated.
- **Allergic reaction**—Some people may be allergic to the local anesthetic (numbing medication) or other medications used. It is important that you tell us about all medication you are allergic to. Also, tell us about any medications you are taking. We need to be sure they are safe to mix with the medications we give you.
- **Death**—Death from in-clinic suction abortion is very rare. The risk of death from an abortion goes up the longer you are pregnant. The risk of death from childbirth is fourteen (14) times greater than an in-clinic suction abortion.

What will be done to get me ready for the abortion?

Laboratory Tests—You will have:

- A pregnancy test (if an ultrasound doesn't show a pregnancy in the uterus).
- A blood test to check your Rh factor—a protein on the outside of red blood cells.
- A blood test to see if you have anemia (low iron).
- Other tests your doctor feels are appropriate.

Ultrasound—You will need an ultrasound. The ultrasound will show how long you've been pregnant. A probe (like a wand) will be placed on your abdomen or into your vagina to get a picture of the pregnancy. You will have the choice to view images of the ultrasound and/or know if it is a multiple pregnancy (twins).

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Nurse Assessment—Your medical history will be reviewed by a nurse. You will have your vital signs (temperature, pulse, respirations, and blood pressure) taken. You may get other exams if the physician or nurse feels they are appropriate. You will also have the opportunity to discuss contraceptive methods.

Education and Consent—A staff person will:

- Tell you about the in-clinic suction abortion.
- Answer any questions you have.
- Obtain your written consent (permission) to have the in-clinic suction abortion

Review—Your medical history, exams, and any testing you had will be reviewed by the nurse and physician to confirm if the abortion can be done at WHC.

What will happen to me during my in-clinic suction abortion?

You will be given pre-operative pain reliever and antibiotic. During the procedure, medications will be given in your cervix to help with cramping. Your cervix will be dilated (opened). When your cervix is dilated enough, the contents of your uterus (pregnancy) are removed with suction. Sometimes surgical instruments may also be needed to empty the uterus.

The physician will exam the tissue to confirm the abortion is complete. All products of conception are disposed by WHC in accordance to Minnesota Statue 145.1621 (cremation).

What will happen after my in-clinic suction abortion?

In the recovery room, you will be given instructions on caring for yourself after your abortion and information on when to come back to WHC if you are having a problem.

What else do I need to know?

Abortion is very safe and effective, however no guarantee can be made about the outcome of your abortion. In the unlikely event that you need emergency medical care that cannot be provided at WHC, you will be responsible for paying for it. This is the case even if WHC sends you to another doctor or hospital because of a problem.

Emergency Contact

In the event of an emergency, we need a person to contact, who can be reached by phone today. Please list your emergency contact below:

Name: _____

Relationship to patient: _____ Aware of abortion procedure: ___ YES ___ NO

Cell phone number: _(_____)_____ Telephone Number: _(_____)_____

Is this person here with you today? ___ YES ___ NO If no, who is here? _____

Name: _____
DOB: _____ Age: _____
Date: _____

Please read and initial the following statements:

_____ I am aware of the Notice of Privacy Practices as required by the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) and have been provided an opportunity to review it.

_____ I am aware that WHC, in compliance with the Tennessee Warning, will report to Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) if I test positive for a sexually transmitted infection or other communicable disease and that I may be contacted by MDH.

_____ I understand that staff of WHC are mandated reporters. The exceptions to my full confidentiality are if I threaten to harm myself or someone else, if there is abuse of a child or vulnerable adult, or court ordered subpoenas.

_____ I agree to follow-up to confirm that abortion is complete, if requested by the WHC physician.

Your health is important to us. If you have any questions or concerns please call WE Health Clinic at 218-727-3352. We are happy to help you.

****DO NOT SIGN BELOW UNTIL YOU HAVE DISCUSSED THIS FORM WITH A STAFF MEMBER ****

I have read this form, understand its contents, and have had an opportunity to have all questions answered.

I voluntarily choose to proceed with the in-clinic suction abortion at WE Health Clinic.

Signature of Patient: _____ Date: _____

I certify that the patient received this information. The patient has read this form, understands its contents, and has had an opportunity to have all questions answered.

Staff Witness Signature: _____ Date: _____

Physician Name: _____

Physician Signature: _____ Date: _____