

Consent for Medication Abortion

Abortion with Mifepristone and Misoprostol

How does medication abortion work?

Two medications are used to complete the abortion. **Mifepristone** is the first medication. Pregnancy needs a hormone called progesterone to grow. Mifepristone blocks progesterone, which starts the abortion process. **24-48 hours after mifepristone, you will take a second medication called misoprostol.** It opens the cervix and makes the uterus contract. This empties the uterus and completes the process.

How well does medication abortion work?

The success rate for medication abortion is 97-99% 6-14 weeks after the last menstrual period. Success may be as low as 85% at 5 weeks or less after the last menstrual period.

What are the benefits of medication abortion?

Medication abortions are safe and effective. It avoids an in-clinic procedure to have an abortion. The abortion process is completed at home, which some people prefer.

What will I experience during a medication abortion?

Mifepristone can cause mild nausea and spotting.

Misoprostol causes the following symptoms, usually starting 0-4 hours after taking it:

- Cramping –The worst cramps usually last up to 3-5 hours. Milder cramps may last a few days after that.
- Bleeding like a period or more – It will usually start within 4 hours and be heaviest within 12 hours of taking the misoprostol. You may bleed or spot for 4 to 6 weeks.
- Cramping and bleeding are usually most intense as the pregnancy passes.
- The time frame for the abortion process can vary but is usually complete within 24 hours of taking misoprostol.
- Fever – Having a temperature of 99-100°F is common after taking misoprostol. It should resolve within 24 hours.
- Other – It is common to have diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, chills, headache, dizziness, back pain, and tiredness after taking misoprostol. These symptoms should resolve within 24 hours.

What are the risks of medication abortions?

- **The pregnancy doesn't end** – Up to 3% of the time the medications do not end the pregnancy. Additional medications or a suction abortion are needed to complete the abortion. Abortion medications increase the risk of serious birth defects if the pregnancy is continued.
- **Incomplete abortion** – This means some of the pregnancy tissue is left inside the uterus. This may lead to heavy bleeding, infection, or both. A suction procedure or other tests or treatments may be needed.
- **Infection of the uterus** – Infections are treated with medication and sometimes a uterine suction procedure.
- **Excessive bleeding (hemorrhage)** – This may require treatment with medication, a suction procedure, blood transfusion, and very rarely abdominal surgery, including possible hysterectomy (removal of the uterus).
- **Allergic reaction** – Rarely, the medications cause an allergic reaction.
- **There is up to a 5% chance of needing medical evaluation and/or treatment (uterine suction or additional medications) for failed or incomplete abortion, excessive bleeding, infection, or pain.**
- **Death** – Deaths from legal abortions are very rare, occurring in fewer than 1/100,000 abortions. The risk of death from continuing the pregnancy and childbirth is 21 times greater.

What else do I need to know?

We will give you instructions on how to take care of yourself during the abortion and warning signs of problems. To confirm the abortion is complete, we will follow up with you by text or phone one week after the abortion and you will do a home pregnancy test 5 weeks after the abortion.

Abortions are safe and effective, but no guarantee can be made about the outcome of your abortion. In the unlikely event that you need medical care after medication abortion, you will be responsible for paying for it. This is the case even if WE Health Clinic refers you to another doctor or hospital because of a problem.

I agree to a phone follow-up with WE Health Clinic staff approximately one week after misoprostol as well as a home pregnancy test five weeks after taking misoprostol to confirm that the abortion is complete.

I have read this form, understand its contents, have had an opportunity to have all questions answered, and choose to proceed with medication abortion at WE Health Clinic.

Signature of Patient: _____ Date: _____

Staff Witness to Patient Signature: _____ Date: _____

Physician: My signature confirms that the patient received the information in this document, understands its contents, and has had the opportunity to ask any question.

Provider Signature: _____ Date: _____

Provider Name: _____