



Medical abortion ends pregnancy with a medication (in pills) called *Mifegymiso*. If you are pregnant, and less than 7 weeks from the first day of your last period, it may be an option for you if you choose to end the pregnancy. Currently, it is not an option for ending pregnancies over 7 weeks.

A medical abortion involves several appointments; including counselling, blood tests, ultrasound, and follow-up visits to be sure the abortion is complete. You must commit to attending all the appointments.

It successfully ends pregnancy 95% of the time. If you choose medical abortion, you should be prepared to have a surgical abortion if the medical abortion doesn't work. The medications may cause serious birth defects.

### **How does it work?**

*Mifegymiso* is a combination of two medications that work together to end pregnancy. *Mifepristone* blocks progesterone, a hormone needed to continue pregnancy. *Misoprostol* makes the uterus contract and empty.

The doctor will give you the first medication to take while at their clinic. You will take the second medication at home as instructed.

### **What can I expect?**

Some people describe medical abortion like having a very heavy period or a miscarriage. You can expect to:

- » start bleeding heavily 1-4 hours after taking the second medication
- » have more pain and bleeding than with a surgical abortion
- » have clots and will see pregnancy tissue pass
- » have moderate to severe cramps (stronger than a regular period) for several hours
- » have very light bleeding or spotting for a few weeks afterwards

### **Where can I get a medical abortion?**

Medical abortion is currently only available through Women's Hospital – Health Sciences Centre for ending pregnancies 7 weeks or under.

You:

- » will be assessed to confirm gestational dates (must be less than 7 weeks).
- » must pay \$360 to buy the medical abortion pills from a pharmacy. The cost of the medications are not covered by Manitoba Health at this time.
- » should understand and accept you are required to attend all follow-up appointments.
- » must bring your valid Manitoba or other provincial health card (if living outside Manitoba) to the appointments.

Important note: Those under age 18 who don't have their own Manitoba Health card must attend the

appointments with a parent who has a valid provincial health card. The Health Sciences Centre lab will not take blood for Rh testing without a valid health card.

For more information on medical abortion, please call Women's Hospital – Health Sciences Centre at 204-787-1980.

**Where can I get a surgical abortion?**

Surgical abortion is a clinical procedure performed at WHC Portage and Women's Hospital – Health Sciences Centre. The cost of the procedure is covered by Manitoba Health. Please bring your valid health card to the appointment.

For more information, please call Women's Health Clinic at 204-947-1517.

**What is the difference between medical abortion and surgical abortion?**

<b>medical abortion (abortion pill)</b>	<b>surgical abortion (uterine aspiration)</b>
Requires you to attend several appointments. Clients must return to Women's Hospital - Health Sciences Centre for follow up testing (blood tests or ultrasound) between 7 – 14 days after the abortion.	A clinical procedure that only takes a few minutes. The whole appointment lasts a few hours and includes counselling and ultrasound. The procedure may involve sedation. A follow-up appointment is optional.
Takes days to weeks to completely end a pregnancy.	Ends a pregnancy immediately.
Allows you to choose the place and the timing of the abortion and who they want to support them during the abortion.	Is done in a clinic or hospital by trained medical staff.
Requires you to be within 1 hour distance of Health Sciences Centre for the next 14 days.	You cannot drive yourself home after the procedure and must arrange for reliable transportation (not transit bus) from the hospital or clinic.
You must pay \$360 to buy the medications from a pharmacy. The cost of the medications are not currently covered by Manitoba Health.	The cost of the procedure is covered by Manitoba Health with a valid Manitoba Health Card. If you live outside Manitoba, insurance or other health plans may cover the cost.

There is bleeding and cramping with both kinds of abortion; they may be more intense and last longer with a medical abortion.

Please consider which type of procedure is best for your situation. For more information on abortion care, please call us at 204-947-1517.