



Medical abortion ends pregnancy with a medication (in pills) called Mifegymiso. If you are 7 weeks pregnant or less, it may be an option if you choose to end the pregnancy.

A medical abortion usually involves 2 appointments at WHC: one appointment where you will have blood work, an ultrasound, and take your first pill, and a second follow-up appointment at WHC.

It successfully ends pregnancy 98% of the time. If you choose medical abortion, you should be prepared to have a surgical abortion (uterine aspiration) if the procedure is not successful.

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

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

The health care provider will give you the first medication to take while at the clinic. Once you take the first pill (mifepristone), the effects are not reversible. You will take the second medication (misoprostol) at home as instructed, 24-48 hours after taking the first pill. You will be required to come back to the clinic for a second appointment 7-10 days after taking the misoprostol.

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

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

- » start bleeding after taking the first medication, mifepristone. This is rare.
- » experience nausea, chills, cramps, upset stomach, fever, and/or diarrhea after taking the second medication, misoprostol.
- » have moderate to severe cramps and increased bleeding after taking 4 tablets of misoprostol. It is important to consider where and when you will take your second set of medications.
- » have clots as large as lemons and see pregnancy tissue pass.
- » cramps and bleeding will intensify until the pregnancy has passed, usually 30 minutes - 4 hours after taking misoprostol.
- » have light bleeding or spotting for a few weeks afterwards.

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

Medical abortions are available in Manitoba and other provinces in Canada. Medical abortions are also available at Women's Health Clinic and Women's Hospital - Health Sciences Centre (HSC). Please bring your valid Manitoba Health Card to your appointments at WHC. Please contact HSC at 204-787-1980 for information about the criteria for medical abortion at HSC.

	<b>Medical Abortion (abortion pill)</b>	<b>Surgical Abortion (uterine aspiration)</b>
<b>Success Rate</b>	A medical abortion is successful about 98 times out of 100. For 2 in 100 people, there will need to be a 2 <sup>nd</sup> treatment with medication or a surgical procedure to ensure the pregnancy has ended.	A surgical abortion is successful about 999 times out of 1000.
<b>Number of Appointments</b>	Requires two appointments: one appointment where you will have an ultrasound, blood work, and take your first pill. At the second appointment, you will have a blood test to ensure the pregnancy has been passed.	The appointment is completed in one day at a WHC. During this appointment you will have an ultrasound, blood work, an IV started, and have your abortion.
<b>Process</b>	The pregnancy is passed through the cervix and out of the vagina (like a miscarriage) after taking two different medications. Expect moderate to very severe cramps and bleeding.	A doctor will insert instruments into the vagina and through the cervix to remove the contents of your uterus. Expect cramps. They can be managed by pain medication through an IV.
<b>Length of Time to Complete</b>	Process takes place over several days. Usually takes 30 minutes - 4 hours to completely end a pregnancy after taking the second medication. A second appointment is required to ensure the pregnancy has been passed.	The abortion itself takes under 10 minutes but the average length of an appointment is 2-4 hours.

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	<b>Medical Abortion (abortion pill)</b>	<b>Surgical Abortion (uterine aspiration)</b>
<b>Location</b>	You can choose the place and the timing of the abortion and who you want as a support during the abortion.	Abortion is done in a clinic or hospital by trained medical staff. A partner or support person is not allowed to be present during the abortion at WHC.
<b>Transportation</b>	Do not drive if you are having dizziness.	You cannot drive yourself home after the procedure and must arrange for reliable transportation (not transit bus) from the hospital or clinic.
<b>Cost</b>	Medical abortions will be free at WHC and HSC for people with a valid Manitoba Health Card. At other places in the province, there may be a cost for the medications.	The cost of the abortion 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.
<b>Safety</b>	Both types of abortion are very safe.	

***If a medical abortion isn't appropriate for you:***

You may choose to have a surgical abortion. A surgical abortion is a clinical procedure performed at WHC and Women's Hospital– Health Sciences Centre. The procedure is completed within one day at WHC. The cost is covered by Manitoba Health. Bring your valid health card to the appointment. If you live outside Manitoba, insurance or other health plans may cover the cost. For more information, please call Women's Health Clinic at 204-947-2422 ext. 200.