

Medication Abortion: Mifegymiso¹

What is a medical abortion?

A medication abortion ends a pregnancy using two types of medication (pills), mifepristone and misoprostol. Mifepristone blocks progesterone, a hormone needed to continue a pregnancy. Misoprostol makes the uterus contract and empty. Together these pills are known as Mifegymiso.

Medication abortion successfully ends pregnancy 98% of the time. If you choose medication abortion, you should be prepared to have a surgical abortion (uterine aspiration) if the procedure is not successful. Medication abortions are available for people who are up to 9 weeks pregnant.

How much does it cost?

There is no cost for medication abortions for people with Manitoba provincial health coverage.

Where can I access a medical abortion?

In Winnipeg:

- Women's Health Clinic: 204-947-1517
- Women's Hospital at the Health Sciences Centre: 204-787-1980

In Brandon:

- Call the intake line of the Sexual Health Program: 204-578-2513

Other areas of Manitoba:

- Service availability varies. Call your local regional health authority to learn more. You may need to travel to access abortion services.

What to expect

A medication abortion may involve 2 appointments. The first appointment will have blood work, an ultrasound, and give you the first pill. Once you take the first pill (mifepristone), the effects are not reversible. You will take the second pill (misoprostol) at home as instructed, 24-48 hours after taking the first pill. You will have a follow-up appointment 7-10 days after taking the misoprostol.

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

- Begin heavily bleeding 1-4 hours after taking the second medication.
- Have clots and see pregnancy tissue pass.

¹ Information on this sheet adapted from Women's Health Clinic. (2017). Is a medical abortion right for me. In Women's Health Clinic (p. 2). <http://womenshealthclinic.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Is-a-medical-abortion-right-for-me-fact-sheet.pdf?x88868>

- Have moderate to severe cramps for several hours.
- Have light bleeding or spotting for a few weeks afterwards.

Where can I get more information?

- From the Women's Health Clinic. As a pro-choice clinic, they offer accurate, non-judgemental information on all three pregnancy options. Call them at 204-947-1517.
- From the Facts of Life (SERC): E-mail your questions to thefactsoflife@serc.mb.ca.
- From a Teen Clinic if you are 21 or younger
- Online at www.serc.mb.ca or our youth website, www.teentalk.ca