

# WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ABORTION

In the Clinic  
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## What Is Induced Abortion?

An induced abortion, also known simply as “abortion,” results when a pregnant person takes a medication or undergoes a procedure that terminates a pregnancy such that it does not result in a live birth or sustained life after birth.

## What Is Medication Abortion, and Is It Effective?

The most effective form of medication abortion involves taking the medication mifepristone (200 mg) by mouth followed by the medication misoprostol (800 mg) 24 to 48 hours later. This method is most effective (>90%) when used 6 to 10 weeks into the pregnancy. There are some medical conditions where medication abortion is not recommended.

## How Effective Is Procedural Abortion, and When Can It Be Performed?

Procedural abortions are highly effective (>99%) at terminating a pregnancy and can be performed at any stage of pregnancy if legally permissible.

## What Are Some Side Effects of Having an Abortion?

Both medication and procedural abortions are generally very safe. Side effects of medication abortion include heavy bleeding and cramping, similar to miscarriage. In rare cases, a woman may retain products of conception and/or have ongoing pregnancy. Misoprostol has caused birth defects in this setting, and a procedure is then necessary to complete the abortion. Light bleeding is common after procedural abortion. Uncommonly, it can lead to complications related to the procedure, such as infection; much heavier bleeding; or, rarely, damage to the uterus.



Abortion does not generally affect one’s ability to have a child in the future, and one can become pregnant as early as 2 weeks after an abortion.

## What Are the Legal Considerations for Having an Abortion?

Since 2022, abortions have been able to be regulated by state law throughout pregnancy, and many states have placed increased restrictions. Some states ban abortions completely with few exceptions. Health insurance may not cover abortion care in some states. It is important to be familiar with the laws in your state. It may be necessary to travel out of the state to obtain abortion care.

## Questions for My Doctor

- What are my options if I choose to terminate my pregnancy?
- What are my options for having an abortion in my state?
- Should I have contingency plans for abortion care in case pregnancy complications arise?
- What are the side effects and risks of having an abortion?
- When should I start contraception after an abortion?
- Is abortion covered by my insurance? How much does abortion care cost?

## For More Information



### Planned Parenthood

[www.plannedparenthood.org](http://www.plannedparenthood.org)

### Reproductive Health Access Project

[www.reproductiveaccess.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/2022-03-Early-Abortion-Options-1.pdf](http://www.reproductiveaccess.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/2022-03-Early-Abortion-Options-1.pdf)

### I Need an A

[www.ineedana.com](http://www.ineedana.com)

### Miscarriage and Abortion Hotline

<https://mahotline.org>