

Medication and Procedural Abortion Fact Sheet

Abortion is a common medical intervention that ends a pregnancy. There are two abortion methods:

	MEDICATION ABORTION	PROCEDURAL ABORTION
Indications	Gestations up to 10 weeks (some health professionals will go beyond this)	Gestation capacities vary from clinic to clinic .
Effectiveness	99% success rate up to 7 weeks ≥ 97% success rate up to 10 weeks	99% success rate
Process and time length	<p>Non-invasive method</p> <p>Takes place where the person is living (outside of a medical clinic or hospital)</p> <p>Requires 2 to 3 visits for assessment and follow-up (and optional counselling). Telehealth may be available.</p> <p>The process takes 2 to 3 days from the time medication is taken to the time of expulsion. Most people can return to normal activities after 1-3 days.</p>	<p>Takes place in a medical clinic or hospital.</p> <p>Requires at least 1 in-person visit. Not possible through telemedicine.</p> <p>The procedure lasts 5 to 10 min, followed by 30 to 60 min of monitoring and observation. Upon clinic discharge, most of the bleeding has subsided. Most people can return to normal activities after 1-2 days.</p>
Side effects	<p>Much heavier bleeding than a period.</p> <p>Cramps might be more severe and last longer than a menstrual period. Pain medication can help (considerations for people who use opioids).</p> <p>The person may experience diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, gas, fever, chills, and headaches.</p>	<p>Usually light bleeding.</p> <p>Mild to strong cramps during the procedure and shortly after. Pain and anxiety can be controlled by intravenous medication.</p> <p>If taking sedation or general anaesthetic, side effects may include drowsiness and mild upset stomach.</p>