

FACTS ABOUT MIFEPRISTONE AND MISOPROSTOL FOR SELF-MANAGED ABORTION

Everyone has the right to information about how abortion pills can be used to safely and effectively end a pregnancy.



Self-managed abortion with mifepristone and misoprostol is about 95 percent effective in the first 10 weeks of pregnancy. The World Health Organization protocol for people who want to manage their abortion via mifepristone plus misoprostol is to use one tablet of mifepristone (200 mg) and 4 tablets of misoprostol (200 mcg each) over the course of two days.

The protocol is summarized in the following steps:

1. Swallow one tablet of **mifepristone** (200 mg) with a glass of water. Normal eating and drinking for the rest of the day.
2. 24 hours later, place four tablets of **misoprostol** (200 mcg each) in the cheek between the gum and the lower teeth, two on each side. (Two tablets should be placed between the gum and the cheek on the left side and two tablets between the gum and the cheek on the right side.)
3. Allow all four pills to dissolve for 30 minutes. Do not eat or drink anything during this time. Saliva can be swallowed. Swallow any remnant of the pills after 30 minutes.



The treatment for complications of abortion pills is exactly the same as the treatment for complications of a miscarriage. There is no test that can detect either mifepristone or misoprostol, and there is no reason for a person to tell a medical provider that they have managed their own abortion with pills. To date, there have been at least 20 arrests of women who have ended their pregnancy outside a medical setting in the United States. A person seeking medical care, therefore, will get no medical benefit from telling a provider they have taken either drug or but they may be putting themselves at legal risk.

After someone takes the medication it is normal to feel heavy cramping and bleeding for several hours. Most of the bleeding will stop by the next day, but some light bleeding may continue for up to 2 or 3 weeks. Common side effects include: nausea, mild fever, chills, headaches, and diarrhea, which may occur for several hours. Though rare, complications can occur.

Signs of complications include:



Heavy bleeding that lasts for more than two hours and soaks more than two sanitary pads per hour



Severe abdominal pain that does not go away after taking painkillers or continues for 2-3 days



A fever of over 102 degrees Fahrenheit or a fever of over 100 degrees Fahrenheit for more than 24 hours



Vaginal discharge that is an unusual greenish or yellowish color, and/or has a strong unpleasant odor

Abortion pills are Magic. Get involved with Reproaction.

www.reproaction.org

For more information, and the WHO protocol on self-managed abortion using misoprostol alone, see our other fact sheets available on our website.