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What happens during a medical abortion?

- You will have an appointment with a health care provider to talk about the procedure in detail.

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- You will be given a prescription for a medication called Mifegymiso.
- › This prescription can be filled at any pharmacy.

What supplies will I need before taking Mifegymiso?

- You will need several large period (maxi) pads. Do not use tampons or period cups during your medical abortion.
- You may take over-the-counter pain medication like acetaminophen (Tylenol®), ibuprofen (Advil ®, Midol®), or naproxen (Aleve®). Be sure to have these medications on hand before starting.
- Other comfort measures, like a heating pad or a hot water bottle, can also help with pain.

How to take the medications

Step 1: Mifepristone (green box)

- Swallow 1 mifepristone tablet with water.
- Once you take mifepristone, there is no way to reverse the effects. This tablet will end the pregnancy.
- Most people do not feel different after taking this tablet. A small number of people have mild bleeding or cramping.

After taking mifepristone,

Step 2 : Misoprostol (orange box)

- Misoprostol softens the cervix and tells your body to push out the tissue (like a miscarriage). You will have, painful cramps during this step.

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- Take pain medication about 30 minutes before taking misoprostol:

› For example, you can take both acetaminophen (1000 mg) and ibuprofen (400 to 800 mg) with food.

- There are 2 ways to take misoprostol. If you have nausea (feeling sick to your stomach), it is recommended to take misoprostol vaginally (option 1). Both ways work equally well.

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Option 1. Vaginally

After you take the mifepristone tablet

insert (put) all 4 misoprostol tablets in your vagina. \*\*\*\*\* them as high up as you can, like you \*\*\*\*\* a tampon or a period cup.

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### Option 2. Orally (by mouth)

After you take the mifepristone tablet (Step 1 on page 2), place all 4 misoprostol tablets in your mouth at the same time. Place 2 tablets between your cheek and gums on each side. Discover more Romance

your cheek and gums on each side. Do not swallow these tablets. Leave them there for 30 minutes. After 30 minutes, drink some water to swallow any pieces that are left.

What will happen after taking misoprostol?

- Within 1 to 3 hours of taking misoprostol, you will start to have normal cramping, and bleeding, and pass clots and tissue. This is the tissue starting to empty from the uterus.
- You may have very heavy bleeding with clots as small as quarters,
- You may have bleeding and cramping for a few hours (30minutes -3hours), until all the tissue passes.

Side effects

- After taking misoprostol, you may have:
  - › A fever
  - › Chills
  - › Diarrhea (loose, watery poop)

These symptoms are common. If you are worried about any of these symptoms, call or text the Nikiwe Clinic

Follow-up appointment(s)

- You will have a follow-up appointment 7 to 14 days after you take mifepristone (the first medication in the green box).
  - › During this appointment, the doctor will check that your medical abortion worked. You may need another blood test.
  - › After your blood test, a nurse will call to confirm whether your medical abortion is complete and answer any questions you may have.

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What are the possible risks?

- There is a 0.5% chance that the medication will not work and you will still be pregnant. If this happens, it is recommended that you have more pills Discover more Romance

- There is a 3 to 5% chance the misoprostol will not work and you will still have

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tissue in your uterus. You may need to take more misoprostol, or come to the Nikiwe Clinic to have the tissue removed during a procedure. This is called a D&C.

- There is very small risk of developing an infection in your uterus. If you have an infection, you will have symptoms 1 or 2 days after taking misoprostol

Call or text the Nikiwe Clinic nurse if you have any of these signs of infection:

- › Normal Fever
- › Chills
- › Bad-smelling vaginal discharge
- › There is a very small risk of heavy bleeding (soaking more than 2 pads an hour for 2 hours in a row).

If you are light-headed, dizzy, or have a very fast heartbeat (feeling like your heart is racing) with a lot of bleeding, go to the nearest Emergency Department right away. Do not drive yourself.

Questions?

- If you have questions before your procedure, call /whatsapp the self-referral line:
  - › Phone (toll-free): 0735521667
  - › Or visit: [www.nshealth.ca/abortion](http://www.nshealth.ca/abortion)
- If you have questions after your procedure, please call the Nikiwe Clinic nurse:
  - › Phone: 0735521667
  - › Hours: 7 a.m. to 18p.m. (Monday to sunday)
- You will need to leave your name and a phone number for the nurse to call you back.
  - › All voicemail messages are confidential. We will return your call as soon as possible. Your conversations with the nurse and counsellor are private and confidential.
  - › If it is an emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest Emergency Department right away.

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Sex and birth control

- You can have sex as soon as you feel ready after your procedure.
- You can get pregnant again 7 days after your procedure, even if you are still bleeding.
- You can start using the birth control pill or patch, vaginal ring, or contraceptive implant right away.
- You should use condoms for 7 days after starting birth control pills, a patch, or a ring, so that the birth control has time to start working.
- You can have an IUD put in when a health care provider confirms you are no

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longer pregnant.

- If you do not start using birth control, your next period will start in 4 to 6 weeks. This period may be heavier and more painful than your regular period.

What are your questions?

Please ask a member of your health care team.( We are here to help you.)