

Medication Abortion Options

	Mifepristone + Misoprostol	Misoprostol Only
How does it work?	Two medicines are used: • Mifepristone causes the pregnancy to detach. • Misoprostol causes the uterus to contract and push the pregnancy out of your body.	One medicine is used: • Misoprostol causes the uterus to contract and push the pregnancy out of your body.
How well does it work?	About 95% of the time, the pregnancy ends without additional treatment (medication or a procedure)	About 85-90% of the time, the pregnancy ends without additional treatment (medication or a procedure)
When can it be done?	Up to 12 weeks since your last period	
How long will it take?	The pregnancy usually passes within 24 hours of taking the last dose of misoprostol. The process may take longer with misoprostol-only.	
How will I feel?	You will start having strong cramps and heavy bleeding within a few hours of taking the misoprostol. You may have bleeding and cramping on and off for a few days. You may also have nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, and fever. These are common side effects from misoprostol and should not last more than 24 hours.	
How much will I bleed?	Heavy bleeding and passing clots is expected after taking misoprostol. Some people may have less bleeding if they take the medication very early in pregnancy. Bleeding may continue on and off for 4 to 6 weeks after the abortion.	
What are some other important differences?	Mifepristone + misoprostol is the most commonly used medication abortion regimen in the United States.	Misoprostol-only abortion is also safe and effective and is used throughout the world. It may be used when mifepristone is not available.
	Usually requires 1-2 doses of misoprostol	Usually requires 3-5 doses of misoprostol
	May cause less side effects (nausea, diarrhea, fever, and chills)	May cause more side effects because there is more misoprostol (nausea, diarrhea, fever, and chills)
	May require an in-person visit depending on state laws and/or clinic policies	May be easier to access through telehealth in some settings
	More likely to completely end the pregnancy without needing additional treatment	Slightly more likely to need additional medication or an abortion procedure