
General advice after a medical abortion

A **follow-up blood test** is very important to check that the abortion has been successful. The test needs to be taken 7 days after you took the first tablet (mifepristone). Other forms of testing may be appropriate for some people, but your clinic will discuss these with you if they are an option.

For 7 days after taking the second tablet (misoprostol), to reduce the risk of infection, avoid:

- sexual intercourse
- use of tampons or menstrual cups
- swimming
- taking a bath or using a spa.

When to go to an emergency department

Go to an emergency department if **at any time** you have:

- very heavy bleeding, such as **any** of the following:
 - your bleeding fills more than two large pads in an hour for more than 2 hours in a row
 - you are passing clots the size of a small lemon or larger
 - you feel faint and think the bleeding is heavy even if you are not sure about how much you are bleeding
- any of the following symptoms (which could mean an ectopic pregnancy in the Fallopian tube):
 - severe abdominal (tummy) pain
 - pain in your pelvis on one side
 - pain in the tips of your shoulders
- other concerns and you don't have access to medical advice (eg from the prescribing clinic).

When to contact the clinic that prescribed the abortion drugs

If you have any of the symptoms below, you might still be pregnant. Contact the clinic if:

- **at 24 hours** after taking misoprostol, you either:
 - have had no or little bleeding (less than a normal period), or
 - have not passed any pregnancy tissue, or any clots larger than a small grape
- **at 48 hours** after taking misoprostol, you still have nausea
- you had some initial bleeding, but it stopped within **4 days** of taking misoprostol
- **at 14 days** after taking misoprostol, you still have breast tenderness.

If you have any of the symptoms below, there might still be some pregnancy tissue (eg placenta) in the uterus (womb). Contact the clinic if:

- **at 7 days** after taking misoprostol:
 - you are still passing clots
 - you still have cramping pain
 - you still have bleeding that is heavier than a period
 - you have bleeding that stopped and restarted and has been as heavy as a period for the last 24 hours or more
- **at 14 days** after taking misoprostol you have bleeding that is not much less than when it started
- **at 4 to 5 weeks** after taking misoprostol you still have bleeding that is different to your usual menstrual cycle.

Contact the clinic if you have any of the symptoms below, as they can indicate that you have an infection of the uterus:

- pelvic pain
- pain during sex
- unusual vaginal discharge
- fever (over 38°C)
- tenderness on touching the abdomen (tummy) or pelvis
- nausea or vomiting
- feel unwell.

Contact the clinic that prescribed the abortion drugs if you have any concerns about the medical abortion.

Doctor's contact details: