

**FACT SHEET**

## MEDICAL TERMINATION OF EARLY PREGNANCY

This Patient Information Sheet contains information regarding medical termination of pregnancy (MTOp)

In 2013, medical termination of pregnancy up to 63 days (9 weeks) gestation with the use of Mifepristone and Misoprostol became available in Australia.

### How to access MTOp at Gateway Health:

To access MTOp you require x2 separate appointments. At the first appointment you will receive counselling, an assessment to determine your eligibility for MTOp, and will be asked to have some bloods and an ultrasound if you haven't already had these done.

At the second appointment, we will review your results, ensure you want to go ahead with MTOp, provide you with scripts for the medication and organise your follow up. A blood test 2 weeks after MTOp and a follow appointment is essential to ensure the procedure was successful.

Please phone Gateway Health on 0260228888 to book.

### How it works:

First a Mifepristone tablet is taken at the Pharmacy and then 36 to 48 hours later, x4 Misoprostol tablets are taken at home. You can nominate to receive an SMS reminder.

Mifepristone is an anti-hormone. It acts by blocking the effects of progesterone, a hormone that is needed for pregnancy to continue. Misoprostol is a prostaglandin and causes contractions of the uterus and relaxation of the cervix which helps push out the contents of the uterus.

Both Mifepristone and Misoprostol work together to end a pregnancy.

### Signs and symptoms of MTOp:

These medications cause **vaginal bleeding, cramping, and pain** usually within 4 hours of taking the Misoprostal tablets. Vaginal bleeding, cramping and pain can range from mild to severe and is usually more than a typical menstrual period.

Other possible short term side effects include headache, breast tenderness, hot flushes, skin rashes, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, short term fever and chills.

If you experience any problems or are at all concerned about side effects, we encourage you to contact Gateway Health or the MS Health 24-hour after-care telephone service. Both these numbers are provided to you at your initial consultation.

### Cost:

Appointments at Gateway Health are bulk-billed. MTOp medications cost \$36.60 for Medicare card holders and \$6.10 if you have any form of concession.

### Comparison of Medical and Surgical Termination of Pregnancy:

Medical Termination of Pregnancy	Surgical Termination of Pregnancy
High success rate: 95-98%	High success rate: 95-100%
Can be used from 4 weeks after last period	May not be available before 6-7 weeks from last period
Process occurs in privacy of home	Procedure performed at a centre
Surgical Instruments not required	Instruments inserted into uterus
No anaesthetic	Anaesthetic required
Medications are self administered	A clinician performs the procedure
Abortion process lasts 1-2 days	Procedure takes 5-10 minutes with a recovery time of up to 3 hours
Requires 2 visits to Health centre	Can be completed in one visit
Pain ranges from mild to severe Bleeding may be heavy or prolonged	Pain and bleeding is typically less