RU-486 (ABORTION PILL)

The use of RU-486, also known as “the abortion pill,” is considered a medical abortion. RU-486 is a combination of two drugs—mifepristone and misoprostol—that cause early abortion. The FDA has approved the abortion pill be used up to 7 weeks. Mifepristone was not originally created to induce abortion, this is a side effect of its created purpose.

It is NOT the same as the “morning-after pill.”

The first pill, mifepristone, when taken orally, blocks progesterone, a hormone needed to maintain pregnancy. If the pregnancy is ectopic (in the fallopian tube) the abortion pill does not work. This is why an ultrasound is so important before you proceed with a medical abortion. An ultrasound will diagnose that your pregnancy is viable and in the uterus.

The second pill, misoprostol, is taken orally as suggested by the manufacturer. Some clinics instruct you to insert it into the vagina 24 hours later. Misoprostol causes the uterus to contract and expel the placenta and embryo. The contractions usually start 4 to 8 hours after taking the misoprostol.

Things to Consider:

- Most medical abortions using mifepristone are completed within a few days outside of a medical environment.
- Two weeks later, you must return to the clinic for an ultrasound to be sure all the contents of the uterus are expelled.

**If this method fails, a surgical abortion will be required.

Some Side Effects of Medical Abortions are:

- Intense cramping of the uterus/pelvic pain
- Vaginal bleeding
- Headache
- Weakness/Fatigue
- Initial relief and then eventual emotional/psychological distress
- Nausea, may lead to vomiting
**Important Risks with a Medical Abortion include:**

- Hemorrhaging requiring treatment with an operation (soaking through two thick full-size sanitary pads per hour for two hours).
- Diarrhea, with or without fever.
- Fever of 100.4 or higher for more than 4 hours.
- Incomplete removal of the fetus, placenta or contents of the uterus.
- You may see the fetus when it is expelled.

- Severe infection in the blood stream after taking the abortion pill and having misoprostol inserted vaginally. *Clostridium sordellii* was introduced which led to death after the infection spread.

If you choose a medical abortion, be sure the provider is a licensed medical clinic and has the ability to provide a surgical abortion if one is needed. Find out if a licensed OB/GYN physician will be administering the procedure.

See what type of after-care, both physical and emotional, they provide, if any. Try to speak with someone who has used the services of that provider in order to find out what their experience was like.

We also recommend you get tested for STD’s to prevent an active infection from spreading.

You will also need a blood test to find out your blood type (if you don’t already know it). Ask for information about blood type incompatibilities and the need for a Rhogam injection. If your blood is found to be Rh negative you will need an injection of Rhogam after your abortion. Rhogam prevents antibodies from being formed in your blood that would cause problems with future pregnancies.

Alternatives Women’s Center also suggests that you **know your legal rights**. To receive information on patient rights, please call or **schedule an appointment** with our professional staff for a confidential consultation.

**REVERSAL OF ABORTION PILL**

If you have taken Mifepristone and have changed your mind or are confused about proceeding please go to: [http://www.abortionpillreversal.com/](http://www.abortionpillreversal.com/) or call **1-877-558-0333**. They may be able to help.