

## FACT SHEET FOR EARLY MEDICAL ABORTION

### (UP TO 9 WEEKS + 6 DAYS -Tablet Method

#### Information Leaflet

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**PLEASE READ THIS LEAFLET CAREFULLY AND KEEP IT THROUGHOUT YOUR TREATMENT AS IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR PROCEDURE AND AFTERCARE**

#### Points to be aware of before you start the procedure

It is important before you take the first tablet that you are certain of your decision to proceed with the abortion.

There are known risks to the fetus from the medication and therefore, we must recommend that once you have taken the tablet(s) that you continue with the abortion.

- It is recommended that you do not smoke or drink any alcohol once the procedure has commenced
- Due to the unpredictability of the procedure we recommend you inform us of any travel plans arranged.
- If you are breastfeeding you may continue during the medical procedure as only small amounts of the drugs, Mifepristone and Misoprostol pass into the breast milk and are therefore not expected to cause adverse effects in the breastfed infant

#### Early medical abortion procedure

##### First Part of your Treatment

You will be given a tablet called Mifepristone to swallow with water whilst in the clinic. If you vomit within 30 minutes of taking it contact the clinic as you will need to return for another tablet.

- Following this tablet you may experience some nausea and / or vomiting also bleeding and period type pain.
- **It is important to note that bleeding at this stage does not mean that you have passed the pregnancy therefore you should continue with the next stage of treatment as planned**

**If you have discomfort you can take over the counter pain relief such as Paracetamol and Ibuprofen as per package directions**

##### Final part of Treatment at home

**You are advised to have a responsible adult stay with you at home when you take the Misoprostol tablets and to remain with you the rest of the day and overnight.**

You will be given 4 tablets called **Misoprostol to be taken at home 48hours after the First Medication** and they can be taken in the following way:

- **Option 1** this is preferred method as you will experience fewer side effects  
Place the 4 tablets into the top of your vagina as high as you can place them. This can be done lying down, squatting
- Or
- **Option 2** taken by mouth  
Place 2 tablets on each side of your mouth, between cheek and gum and allow the tablets to dissolve for 30 minutes. If after 30 minutes they have not completely dissolved, swallow what is left with water

### **What to expect after the final medication at home -**

- You will experience vaginal bleeding which can be heavy with blood clots and this may be accompanied by passage of the pregnancy tissue.
- Period type (cramps) pain usually 1-2 hours after using the tablet. For any pain and discomfort you experience you can use Paracetamol and Ibuprofen. Please read the patient information leaflet with the packet and take as directed
- You may experience some nausea, vomiting, dizziness, possible diarrhoea or cold or hot flushes. These are known side effects from these tablets and will not stop the process tablet from working.
- For most people the procedure is likely to be completed within 4-6 hours of taking the Misoprostol, however it may take up to a few days.

**We request that you contact the Bedford Centre for advice 7 days after taking the Misoprostol tablets if you have only had a slight blood loss without clots or you have not had any bleeding or you continue to have symptoms of pregnancy. This may mean that the procedure has been unsuccessful.**

### **Known risks of early medical abortion**

- The risk of a failed procedure and continuing pregnancy
- Excessive bleeding (haemorrhage) requiring blood transfusion,
- Retained pregnancy tissue requiring further treatment.
- Infection
- Undiagnosed ectopic pregnancy – this is rare
- Emotional / psychological distress following an abortion -If you are not coping, we would suggest that you contact your GP so that counselling or support can be arranged.
- Risk of death is very rare.

### **Follow up information**

You will be given a pregnancy test and a discharge advice sheet with a date on which you should perform a two week home pregnancy test. It is **very important** that you follow this advice as this will determine whether the abortion has been successful.

Please only use the pregnancy test you are supplied with as they are different to the tests you can buy.

You **must** contact the Bedford Centre on 0151 708 9988 ext. 4509 if the pregnancy test is positive. We will arrange an appointment for you to be reviewed.

If you do not contact the Bedford Centre we will assume that you have performed the home pregnancy test on the date requested and that it has shown a negative result

### Discharge advice following early medical abortion

1. As already discussed, you are advised to have a responsible adult, with you who is aware of the treatment and remain with you until the following morning.
2. You are advised not to travel long distances, especially by air, until you have performed a negative home pregnancy at 2 weeks post treatment. If you do decide to travel we strongly recommend you inform your travel insurance provider that you are undergoing a procedure.
3. Bleeding following the procedure is very individual. It can last for up to 3 weeks as a continuation of the procedure, this is not a period. It is not unusual for the bleeding to stop and start during this time. With this bleeding we advise you to use sanitary towels not tampons.
4. You are advised to maintain your normal hygiene routine, however whilst you are bleeding when a showering it is important that you do not apply the jet of water directly to the vagina (douching) as this may increase the risk of infection.
5. You are advised to avoid sexual intercourse until you have a negative pregnancy test Using condoms may help to reduce the risk of infection.  
**You can get pregnant before your next period if adequate contraception is not used.**
6. Your next period should occur 4 – 6 weeks following the procedure; however this can be affected by the method of contraception you are using. The bleeding on this period may be heavier than you are normally used to.
7. It is advisable that you limit any strenuous activity including prolonged sports activities until your bleeding has settled.

**If you should develop any of the following, either contact the Gynaecology Emergency Department at the Liverpool Women's Hospital 0151 0151 702 4140 or contact your local Accident & Emergency Department:**

- Heavy and continuous bleeding that soaks through 2 or more pads in an hour for a period of 2 hours.
- Severe repeated or continuous abdominal pains - if not eased with the tablets you have taken for pain relief.
- Violent shivering attacks / chills
- High temperature
- Offensive (smelly) vaginal discharge

If you require any further advice regarding this method of abortion you can contact **The Bedford Centre** on **0151-708-9988 extension 1130** between **08.00 and 16.30hrs. Monday to Friday and Saturday 0800 and 1600hrs.**

During the procedure if you require out of hours advice for any of the above list the **Gynaecology Emergency Department** is open 24 hours a day on **0151-702-4140.**

If you would like to make any suggestions or comments about this leaflet or would like a copy in a different format please contact the Patient Quality Team on 0151-702-4416 or email [feedback@lwh.nhs.uk](mailto:feedback@lwh.nhs.uk). Please note that the Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust is a smoke free site. Smoking is not allowed inside the hospital building or within the hospital grounds, car parks and gardens. Staff are available to give advice about stopping smoking, please ask your Nurse about this.

**References:** Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG): *The Care of Women requesting Induced Abortion*. London 2011.

This leaflet can be made available in different formats on request. If you would like to make any suggestions or comments about the content of this leaflet, then please contact the Patient Experience Team on 0151 702 4353 or by email at [pals@lwh.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@lwh.nhs.uk)

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