Reducing risk of infection
To reduce the risk of infection you should not use tampons until your next period. Do not have sexual intercourse or put anything into your vagina as advised by your health carer. You should also avoid swimming and have showers instead of baths.

Gestation, termination procedure and location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gestation</th>
<th>Procedure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>under 9 weeks</td>
<td>medical clinic or doctor’s room then home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>under 13 weeks</td>
<td>medical hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 – 19 weeks</td>
<td>medical hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from 20 weeks</td>
<td>approval must be given</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contacts

FPWA Sexual Health Services
Freecall: 1800 198 205
www.fpwa.org.au

Dr Marie
Freecall: 1800 003 707 (24 hours)
www.drmarie.org.au

KEMH – Family Services Coordinator
Phone: (08) 9340 2222 (weekdays)
www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au

Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service
Phone: (08) 9421 3888
www.derbarlyerrigan.com.au

Ishar Multicultural Women’s Health Centre
Phone: (08) 9345 5335
www.ishar.org.au

Abortion Grief Australia
www.abortiongrief.asn.au

Pregnancy Assistance
www.pregnancyassistance.org.au

Pregnancy Problem House
www.pregnancyproblemhouse.com.au

The booklets ‘Termination of Pregnancy (Abortion) - Information to Consider’ and ‘Termination of Pregnancy (Abortion), Fetal Anomaly, Information to Consider’ provide detailed information on pregnancy termination, other options and contact details of numerous agencies for women who are dealing with the decision to terminate a pregnancy or continue a pregnancy.

We recommend that you read these booklets which are available online at www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au/services/

Note: Whilst every effort has been made to provide current, evidence based information in this flyer at the time of review, it is recommended that you consult your health carer for support and advice.

Produced by: Women’s Health Policy and Projects Unit
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This information is available in alternative formats upon request
Termination of pregnancy (abortion)

A termination of pregnancy, also known as an abortion, is a way of ending a pregnancy. The earlier you have a termination the safer it is for you.

How is a termination carried out?

**Medical** termination is a way to end a pregnancy using medication in the form of tablets. The tablets help to stop a hormone needed for pregnancy and to assist the cervix (neck of the womb) to relax and bring on the termination. Depending on how far along your pregnancy is a medical termination can be completed at home, in a clinic or at a hospital.

**Surgical** termination usually involves a vacuum aspiration and will be done at a clinic or hospital. During a vacuum aspiration a small tube (curette) is inserted through the vagina into the uterus and suction is used to remove the pregnancy tissue. Usually the procedure is performed under general anaesthetic, but occasionally women will have a local anaesthetic instead.

How do I arrange a termination?

You need to see your GP (doctor) who will:

- confirm the pregnancy
- provide information about the medical risks of a termination and of continuing a pregnancy
- offer you the option of referral to counselling about termination and continuing a pregnancy to term
- inform you that counselling is available after a termination or continuing a pregnancy
- refer you to a suitable clinic with a referral letter.

If your GP does not wish to take part in an appointment regarding a termination they should let you know. You are able to arrange an appointment with another GP or clinic.

Before a termination

You will need to:

- give your informed consent
- have an examination and health check
- have blood tests for your blood group or sexually transmitted infections
- have an ultrasound scan to confirm the pregnancy, which you are able to view if you wish.

You will be provided with information about:

- termination options
- the process
- anaesthetic sedation if required
- what to expect
- what to do after the procedure
- pain relief options
- antibiotics to reduce the chance of an infection
- relevant contact details
- referral information
- advice on contraceptive methods

How long will it take?

A medical termination will usually take two to three days from when you take the first tablet to the end of the termination when the pregnancy tissue is released. A surgical termination usually takes less than 20 minutes. However, the overall process can take several hours or overnight.

Risks

A termination between six and eight weeks gestation carries the lowest risk of a problem occurring and although serious problems in a termination are uncommon, the following are possible risks:

- Damage to the cervix
- Damage to the uterus
- Excessive bleeding / haemorrhage
- Failure to empty the uterus of all pregnancy tissue
- Failure to terminate the pregnancy
- If sedation required, headache, dizziness, nausea or fever
- Infection

What if I am under 16 years old?

If you are under 16 years of age and being supported by your parent(s) or a legal guardian, your parent(s) or guardian must be advised that a termination is being considered and given the chance to be involved in a counselling process and discussions with your health carer about the termination.

You may apply to the Children’s Court for an order stating that this does not need to happen. The Court will then make a decision on whether it will agree to the order. You should speak with your health carer about this in further detail.

What if I am 20 weeks gestation or more?

The law in Western Australia requires approval to be given for a termination to be carried out from 20 weeks gestation. An application is made, by your doctor, to a panel of medical practitioners who will review your situation. Two of the medical practitioners must agree that you or your unborn baby has a severe medical condition that justifies a termination. This type of termination is only performed at King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH).

Do I have to pay for a termination?

There are usually costs involved in having a termination which will vary depending on how far along your pregnancy is, the type of termination you have and where you have the termination. You may be able to receive financial assistance if you do not have enough money.

Follow-up care

You will need to arrange a follow-up appointment with your GP 14 to 21 days after a termination to make sure there are no problems.

When to seek advice

If you have a temperature or fever, have cramping, your bleeding becomes very heavy or you are worried, you should call the clinic or hospital where you had the termination or your health carer.