

# Facts about Misoprostol for SELF-MANAGED ABORTION

Everyone has the right to information about how misoprostol is used to safely and effectively end a pregnancy.

Consciousness-raising is the first step in making medications like misoprostol available to any pregnant person legally, affordably, and conveniently.

**Misoprostol is typically used within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy and is about 85 percent effective.**

Normal side effects of misoprostol include: cramps, bleeding, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and chills. Though very rare, signs of potential complications that should be treated at a hospital include: heavy bleeding that lasts for more than two hours, high fever, and severe pain.



**Abortion with pills taken orally presents like a miscarriage. There is no need to disclose use of pills to medical staff because it may be legally risky. At least 20 women have been arrested for ending their pregnancies.**

Self-managed abortion may be a first choice for some and a last resort for others. Either way, pregnant people should be able to have an abortion on their own terms – whether that is at a clinic or in the privacy of their own home.



No method of self-managed abortion should be shamed, and certainly not criminalized.

The World Health Organization recommends that people who want to manage their abortion via misoprostol take a total of 12 tablets (200 mcg each). These tablets are administered four at a time, under the tongue, and allowed to dissolve for 30 minutes, every three hours.

Get involved with  
**Reproaction**  
[www.reproaction.org](http://www.reproaction.org)

*For information on self-managed abortion using mifepristone and misoprostol or more on the WHO protocols for misoprostol alone, see our other fact sheets available on our website.*