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.

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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.