

TERMINATE PREGNANCY (ABORTION)

Description

Termination of pregnancy is when a woman decides to end her pregnancy before its full term, by medical or surgical means. Any pregnant woman who does not wish to go through with her pregnancy by choice or due to circumstances known to her can terminate the pregnancy. The woman must preferably be under 12 weeks pregnant.

Steps to follow

Visit your local clinic or professional medical practitioner to discuss the abortion process. You may be asked to fill in forms when you get to the clinic to give your medical history and the period of your pregnancy. You will be given pre-counselling and post-abortion counselling. The medical practitioner will examine you to determine the period of your pregnancy. The medical practitioner will prescribe a safe method of abortion. A date will be scheduled for admission at the hospital to perform the abortion.

Legal framework

This service is provided in terms of the Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1996 (Act 92 of 1996) and the Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Amendment Act, 2008 (Act 1 of 2008)

Termination of pregnancy is performed on the day of admission and the patient is usually discharged shortly after the procedure unless there are complications.

Cost

A minimum cost is charged at public health facilities. Private health facilities may charge a different fee for the service.

Forms to complete

Forms are available at the clinic or hospital.