

## Common Questions Regarding Medical Abortion

### **I started bleeding before taking the misoprostol tablets. Should I still take them?**

Yes. Some women experience some degree of vaginal bleeding prior to the insertion of the second set of pills. This is normal, and it's a good sign that the medicine is working. Take the misoprostol as you were instructed during your visit.

### **I thought I was going to bleed heavy and have clots. I only have light bleeding.**

This may be normal, especially if you had a very early pregnancy. It may also mean that the abortion is not complete. There is no way to know until you obtain your follow up ultrasound examination.

### **I'm nauseous and vomiting. I have diarrhea. I feel feverish. I have chills.**

#### **Is this normal? What should I do?**

Yes. Unfortunately these are normal side effects. Usually these symptoms will stop within a few hours to 12 hours of onset. It is sort of like the 24-hour flu. Make sure you drink plenty of fluids.

### **I took the misoprostol hours ago and nothing has happened. What should I do?**

Occasionally the misoprostol takes longer than five hours to start working. For some women bleeding and cramping do not occur until the following day. If no bleeding occurs it is possible that the pills are not working for you. Come in for your follow-up visit. There is nothing to do until you come and see us.

### **Since I inserted the misoprostol I'm having heavy bleeding, passing clots, and chunks of tissue. I'm afraid. Am I going to be o.k?**

It is normal to experience heavy bleeding with the passage of clots and tissues. If you're bleeding less than four maxi-pads in two hours you should be o.k. Make sure to drink plenty of fluids, and lie down with your feet up. Please don't hesitate to call us if you're concerned.

### **I am having intense cramping that is not going away after taking the ibuprofen. What can I do?**

Some women do experience intense cramping despite good pain medication. In this situation it may last as long as 8 hours before stopping on its own. If it has been at least two hours since the ibuprofen, your doctor may have given you Tylenol #3. Take two of these. Alternatively, you can take extra strength Tylenol or a double dose of Aleve. This often works as well as Tylenol #3 without the other side effects. You may also try using a heating pad on your lower abdomen. You can also lie down with your knees to your chest, or put a foot on a chair and lean into it. **THE PAIN WILL STOP.** You can always call us just to check in.