

Information on termination of pregnancy (abortion)

A series of information leaflets on
termination of pregnancy services
in Greater Glasgow

Your first doctor's appointment

The assessment clinic

Early medical termination

Surgical termination

Medical termination

The Assessment Clinic

**After your first appointment with your GP or
at your family planning clinic you will be
referred to an assessment clinic at a hospital.**

What happens at the clinic?

At this clinic you will usually

- See another doctor to confirm your eligibility for a termination of pregnancy. The legal requirement in the UK is that two doctors must agree that going ahead with a termination would cause less harm to a woman's physical or mental health than continuing with the pregnancy. Most doctors will view the distress of continuing with an unwanted pregnancy as likely to be harmful. At some clinics you may not see a doctor but your assessment will be carried out by a nurse.
- You will have a medical history taken. You will also have blood taken, usually give a urine sample or may have an examination or a vaginal swab taken to test for sexually transmitted infections. In some cases an ultrasound scan will be given to determine how advanced the pregnancy is.

- You will also be given the opportunity to talk through some of the things you may be concerned or worried about or to see a counsellor. You will be able to make further appointments to talk to someone if you wish. There is also information on further sources of support at the end of this leaflet.
- The doctor or nurse will talk through the best available options for termination with you. This will usually depend on how far advanced the pregnancy is.

What are the options for termination of pregnancy in Glasgow?

In Glasgow these are:

Early medical termination

This type of termination is like an early miscarriage. Two appointments are needed on two different days. On the first, mifepristone tablets are given to block the hormones that allow pregnancy to continue. On the second visit, prostaglandin tablets or vaginal pessaries are given causing the womb to expel the pregnancy. This usually takes 4-6 hours.

Medical termination (12-16 weeks)

This process is like having a late miscarriage. The same drugs used for an early termination are used. The second visit will involve more doses of prostaglandin and a longer stay on the ward, very occasionally overnight.

Surgical Termination of Pregnancy (7-12 weeks)

This process is carried out under a general anaesthetic. During the operation the neck of the womb is gently stretched and opened and the contents of the womb (the pregnancy) are removed by suction through a thin plastic tube. This is also a day procedure but very occasionally there might be a need for an overnight stay.

Termination over 16 weeks

UK law allows for termination of pregnancy to take place up to 24 weeks of pregnancy but at present terminations over 16 weeks are rarely carried out in Greater Glasgow.

In cases over 16 weeks, a termination can be arranged through BPAS (the British Pregnancy Advisory Service). BPAS is a registered charity but there is a charge for their service. Referrals can be made to BPAS by the NHS and in some cases this means the charge can be covered. At present using a BPAS service will involve travelling to England and being away from home for one or occasionally two nights.

What happens next?

You will then be given a date/s to come in to hospital. You will also be given information on what you will need to bring with you or any arrangements you might need to make, for example to cover childcare. You will also be given more detailed written information on

the method of termination, what to expect and where you can go for support or counselling.

Useful Contacts

The Sandyford Initiative

www.sandyford.org.uk

2-6 Sandyford Place

Glasgow G3 7NB

- **Family Planning and Reproductive Health**

Tel: 0141 211 8130

Based within the Sandyford Initiative Family Planning and Reproductive Health provide contraception, reproductive and sexual health services. These include referral for termination of pregnancy, pre and post termination counselling and someone to talk to whether your termination was a recent event or a long time ago.

Services are also offered from a network of community clinics.

Please contact for details

- **Centre for Women's Health**

Tel: 0141 211 6700

As part of the Sandyford Initiative, the Centre provides information, support and counselling on all aspects of women's health.

British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS)

www.bpas.org.uk

Sandyford initiative

2-6 Sandyford Place

Glasgow G3 7NB

Tel: 08457 30 40 30 (Action line)

BPAS is a registered charity operating on a non profit basis. It provides a confidential and non judgemental abortion care service up to 24 weeks of pregnancy. BPAS is not part of the NHS so there is a charge for their services. However in some cases BPAS will work with the NHS to provide care in the case of late terminations (over 16 weeks).

fpa Scotland (The Family Planning Association)

www.fpa.org.uk

Provides confidential advice and support on all aspects of sexual and reproductive health including termination of pregnancy.

Confidential helpline on 0141 576 5088

Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm

Friday 9am - 4.30pm

Notes and Contact Details

Hospital

Address

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Ward/clinic

Telephone

Appointment

Date

Time

