

## Use of MISOPROSTOL to treat retained products of conception after Medical Abortion

You have been diagnosed with retained products of conception following a termination of pregnancy using mifepristone and misoprostol.

This complication causes very heavy vaginal bleeding with cramping pain. It happens when all the pregnancy tissue has not been completely expelled from the uterus (approximately 5-8 in 100 patients).

A surgical procedure involving suction curettage of the uterus may be necessary but sometimes a short course of more MISOPROSTOL tablets (also known as "Cytotec"), taken orally, sublingually or buccally may suffice and avoid the need for a surgical procedure.

You have been given 8 misoprostol tablets (8 x 200 micrograms).

Please take 2 tablets, orally or sublingually (by placing under your tongue and let dissolve completely), or buccally (by placing in your mouth between the cheeks and your teeth and allow to dissolve completely) twice a day (i.e. 4 tablets per day) until finished. Note: The sublingual and buccal methods may have a quicker absorption rate and possibly a higher concentration in the blood once absorbed.

These tablets help to contract the uterus and may help in expelling any retained tissue from the uterus. If unsuccessful, a surgical procedure will be required. There are no out-of-pocket expenses for either of these treatments.

Misoprostol, although widely used in Australia, and the world to assist preoperatively in mid-trimester terminations, is not registered for this purpose in Australia. It is generally used in the treatment of gastric/peptic ulcers, but has proved to be very helpful in assisting doctors with termination of pregnancy procedures (medical and surgical) and medical treatment of retained products of conception.

You may experience cramping, heavier vaginal bleeding +/- clots, +/- expulsion of pregnancy tissue, chills, nausea, and diarrhoea.

Please call if you have any concerns regarding your treatment.