Country Profile: Guyana

Region: South America

Last Updated: 02 September 2022

Identified policies and legal sources related to abortion:
- Reproductive Health Act
- General Medical Health Act
- Constitution
- Criminal / Penal Code
- Civil Code
- Ministerial Order / Decree
- Case Law
- Health Regulation / Clinical Guidelines
- EML / Registered List
- Medical Ethics Code
- Document Relating to Funding
- Abortion Specific Law
- Law on Medical Practitioners
- Law on Health Care Services
- Other

Related Documents

From Criminal / Penal Code:
- Criminal Law Offences Act

From Health Regulation / Clinical Guidelines:
- The Official Gazette-Legal Supplement - B. Regulations, 1995

From EML / Registered List:
- Guyana Essential Drug List, 2009-2010

From Abortion Specific Law:
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995

Concluding Observations:
None

Persons who can be sanctioned:
- A woman or girl can be sanctioned
- Providers can be sanctioned
- A person who assists can be sanctioned

Abortion at the woman's request

- Gestational limit: 8

Legal Ground and Gestational Limit
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic or social reasons</th>
<th>Not specified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Related documents:**
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995

### WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Health grounds shall reflect WHO's definitions of health, which entails a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Abortion Care Guideline § 2.2.2.

- Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 16)

### Additional notes

Regarding pregnancies of more than eight weeks of gestation, the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act stipulates that doctors must take into consideration the future and actual economic and social circumstances of the woman requesting an abortion.

**Related documents:**
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 6)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foetal impairment</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related documents:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Gestational limit

Weeks: 16

- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 7)

### WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Grounds-based approaches to restricting access to abortion should be revised in favour of making abortion available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person. The Abortion Care Guideline recommends against laws and other regulations that restrict abortion by grounds. The guideline recommends abortion be available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person.

Until they are replaced with abortion on request, any existing grounds should be formulated and applied in a manner consistent with international human rights law. This requires that abortion is available when carrying a pregnancy to term would cause the woman, girl or other pregnant person substantial pain or suffering, including but not limited to situations where the pregnancy is not viable. Grounds-based approaches that require fetal impairments to be fatal for abortion to be lawful frustrate providers and leave women no choice but to continue with pregnancy. Being required to continue with a pregnancy that causes significant distress violates numerous human rights. Abortion Care Guideline § 2.2.2.

- Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 64)

Laws or policies that impose time limits on the length of pregnancy may have negative consequences for women, including forcing them to seek clandestine abortions and suffer social inequities. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.1.7.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rape</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related documents:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 6)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Gestational limit

Weeks: 16

- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 7)

### WHO Guidance

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Until they are replaced with abortion on request, any existing grounds should be formulated and applied in a manner consistent with international human rights law. This requires that abortion is available when carrying a pregnancy to term would cause the woman, girl or other pregnant person substantial pain or suffering, including but not limited to situations where the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest Abortion Care Guideline § 2.2.2.

- Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 64)

Laws or policies that impose time limits on the length of pregnancy may have negative consequences for women, including forcing them to seek clandestine abortions and suffer social inequities. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.1.7.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Related documents:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incest</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Gestational limit

**Weeks:** 16

- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 7)

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

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Laws or policies that impose time limits on the length of pregnancy may have negative consequences for women, including forcing them to seek clandestine abortions and suffer social inequities. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.1.7.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intellectual or cognitive disability of the woman</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Related documents:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 6)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Gestational limit

**Weeks:** 16

- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 7)

**WHO Guidance**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mental health</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Related documents:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Gestational limit

**Weeks:** no limit specified

- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 7)

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

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- Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 16)

Laws or policies that impose time limits on the length of pregnancy may have negative consequences for women, including forcing them to seek clandestine abortions and suffer social inequities. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.1.7.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical health</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Related documents:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Gestational limit

**Weeks:** no limit specified

- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 7)

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Health grounds shall reflect WHO’s definitions of health, which entails a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Abortion Care Guideline § 2.2.2.

- Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 16)

Laws or policies that impose time limits on the length of pregnancy may have negative consequences for women, including forcing them to seek clandestine abortions and suffer social inequities. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.1.7.

### Health

When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.

**Related documents:**
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995

### WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

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- **Source document:** WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 16)

### Life

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Related documents:**
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 6)

### Gestational limit

**Weeks:** no limit specified

**Related documents:**
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 7)

### Other

Where the pregnant woman is known to be HIV positive or where there is clear evidence that the pregnancy resulted in spite of the use in good faith of a recognized contraceptive method by the pregnant woman or her partner.

**Related documents:**
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 6)

### Additional notes

The gestational limit in these cases is 16 weeks.

### Additional Requirements to Access Safe Abortion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authorization of health professional(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Related documents:**
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 6)

### Number and cadre of health-care professional authorizations required

**2 OR 3**

Medical practitioner

**SEE NOTES**

- To terminate a pregnancy of no more than 16 weeks, the authorization of two medical practitioners is needed. For terminations after 16 weeks of gestation three medical practitioners need to deem the termination necessary.

**Related documents:**
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 6)

### WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Third-party authorization requirements are incompatible with international human rights law, which provides that States may not restrict women’s access to health services on the ground that they do not have the authorization of husbands, partners, parents or health authorities, because they are unmarried, or because they are women. The Abortion Care Guideline recommends that abortion be available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person without the authorization of any other individual, body or institution. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.2.

- **Source document:** WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 81)

### Additional notes

- To terminate a pregnancy of no more than 16 weeks, the authorization of two medical practitioners is needed. For terminations after 16 weeks of gestation three medical practitioners need to deem the termination necessary.
### Authorization in specially licensed facilities only

Yes

**Related documents:**
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 6)

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

To establish an enabling environment, there is a need for abortion care to be integrated into the health system across all levels (including primary, secondary and tertiary) - and supported in the community - to allow for expansion of health worker roles, including self-management approaches. To ensure both access to abortion and achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), abortion must be centred within primary health care (PHC), which itself is fully integrated within the health system, facilitating referral pathways for higher-level care when needed. Abortion Care Guideline § 1.4.1.

*Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 52)*

### Judicial authorization for minors

**Not specified**

When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.

**Related documents:**
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995
- Rules on Abortion Act, 1995
- Criminal Law Offences Act, 1998

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

The Abortion Care Guideline recommends that abortion be available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person without the authorization of any other individual, body or institution. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.2.

*Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 81)*

### Judicial authorization in cases of rape

**Not specified**

When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.

**Related documents:**
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995
- Rules on Abortion Act, 1995
- Criminal Law Offences Act, 1998

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

There shall be no procedural requirements to "prove" or "establish" satisfaction of grounds, such as requiring judicial orders or police reports in cases of rape or sexual assault (for sources to support this information). These restrictions subject the individual to unnecessary trauma, may put them at increased risk from the perpetrator, and may cause women to resort to unsafe abortion.

The Abortion Care Guideline recommends abortion be available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person. Abortion Care Guideline § 2.2.2.

*Source document: WHO-Safe-Abortion-Guidance-2012.pdf#page=104*

### Police report required in case of rape

**Not specified**

When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.

**Related documents:**
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995
- Rules on Abortion Act, 1995
- Criminal Law Offences Act, 1998

**WHO Guidance**

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The Abortion Care Guideline recommends abortion be available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person. Abortion Care Guideline § 2.2.2.

*Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 64)*
**Parental consent required for minors**

No

Related documents:
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 8)

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

While parental or partner involvement in abortion decision-making can support and assist women, girls or other pregnant persons, this must be based on the values and preferences of the person availing of abortion and not imposed by third-party authorization requirements. Third-party authorization requirements are incompatible with international human rights law, which provides that States may not restrict women’s access to health services on the ground that they do not have the authorization of husbands, partners, parents or health authorities, because they are unmarried, or because they are women. The Abortion Care Guideline recommends that abortion be available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person without the authorization of any other individual, body or institution. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.2.

**Additional notes**

Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 81)

**Spousal consent**

No

Related documents:
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 8)

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

While parental or partner involvement in abortion decision-making can support and assist women, girls or other pregnant persons, this must be based on the values and preferences of the person availing of abortion and not imposed by third-party authorization requirements. Third-party authorization requirements are incompatible with international human rights law, which provides that States may not restrict women’s access to health services on the ground that they do not have the authorization of husbands, partners, parents or health authorities, because they are unmarried, or because they are women. The Abortion Care Guideline recommends that abortion be available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person without the authorization of any other individual, body or institution. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.2.

**Additional notes**

In the treatment of the termination of a pregnancy of a child of any age, while the medical practitioner or authorised medical practitioner, as the case may be, may encourage the child to inform her parents, he is not required either to obtain the consent of her parents or guardian or to notify them.

Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 81)

**Ultrasound images or listen to foetal heartbeat required**

Not specified

When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.

Related documents:
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995
- Rules on Abortion Act, 1995
- Criminal Law Offences Act, 1998

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

The right to refuse information, including the right to refuse viewing ultrasound images, must be respected. The Abortion Care Guideline recommends against the use of ultrasound scanning as a prerequisite for providing abortion services for both medical and surgical abortion. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.5.

**Additional notes**

Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 85)

**Compulsory counselling**

Yes

Related documents:
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 4)

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

While counselling should be made available and accessible, it should always be voluntary for women to choose whether or not they want to receive it. The right to refuse counselling when offered must be respected. Where provided, counselling must be available to individuals in a way that respects privacy and confidentiality.

Counselling should be person-centred and may need to be tailored according to the needs of the individual; young people, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence or members of marginalized groups may have different information or counselling requirements.

The content and approach to counselling will need to be adjusted depending on the reason for seeking abortion services. Therefore, it is important for the counsellor to be aware of and sensitive to the individual’s situation and needs. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.2.2.

**Additional notes**

Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 77)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compulsory waiting period</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related documents:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 4)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Waiting period</th>
<th>When the woman has made a request, while being counseled 48 HOURS</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mandatory HIV screening test</th>
<th>Not specified</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related documents:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Rules on Abortion Act, 1995</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Criminal Law Offences Act, 1998</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other mandatory STI screening tests</th>
<th>Not specified</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related documents:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Criminal Law Offences Act, 1998</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prohibition of sex-selective abortion</th>
<th>Not specified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related documents:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>- Criminal Law Offences Act, 1998</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

| Restrictions on information provided to the public | No data found |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Related documents:</strong></th>
<th>WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 79)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Mandatory waiting periods delay access to abortion, sometimes to the extent that women’s access to abortion or choice of abortion method is restricted. The Abortion Care Guideline recommends against mandatory waiting periods for abortion. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.1.

**Source document:** WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 79)

Regulatory, policy and programmatic barriers – as well as barriers in practice – that hinder access to and timely provision of quality abortion care should be removed. Abortion Care Guideline § Box 2.1.

**Source document:** WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 59)

In situations where abortion is restricted for sex selection purposes, terminating a pregnancy for this reason is likely to involve an unsafe procedure carrying high risks. Any policies or guidelines on the use of technology in obstetric and fetal medicine should take into account the need to ensure women’s access to safe abortion and other services - efforts to manage or limit sex selection should also not hamper or limit access to safe abortion services. Preventing gender-biased sex selection: an interagency statement.

**Source document:** Preventing Gender-Biased Sex Selection (page 17)

Dissemination of misinformation, withholding of information and censorship should be prohibited. Information should be accessible and understandable, including formats catering to low-literacy and differently abled populations. Different modalities exist for the provision of information on abortion, e.g. remote access via hotlines and telemedicine, and through approaches such as harm reduction and community-based outreach, as well as in-person interactions with health workers. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.2.1.

**Source document:** WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 74)
### Clinical and Service-delivery Aspects of Abortion Care

#### National guidelines for induced abortion

- Yes, guidelines issued by the government

**Related documents:**
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 1)
- Rules on Abortion Act, 1995 (page 1)

### WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

A woman is entitled to know the status of her pregnancy and to act on this information. Prenatal tests and other medical diagnostic services cannot legally be refused because the woman may decide to terminate her pregnancy. Safe Abortion Guidelines § 4.2.1.4.

**Source document:** WHO-Safe-Abortion-Guidance-2012.pdf#page=103
Methods allowed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Approval</th>
<th>Source documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vacuum aspiration</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dilatation and evacuation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Combination mifepristone-misoprostol</td>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misoprostol only</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (where provided)</td>
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</table>

Related documents:
- Guyana Essential Drug List (page 1)
- WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 16)

WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Vacuum aspiration is recommended for surgical abortions at or under 14 weeks to be provided by traditional and complementary medicine professionals, nurses, midwives, associate/advanced associate clinicians, generalist medical practitioners and specialist medical practitioners.

Dilation and evacuation (D&E) is recommended for surgical abortions at or over 14 weeks to be provided by generalist medical practitioners and specialist medical practitioners. Vacuum aspiration can be used during a D&E.

The recommended method for medical abortion is mifepristone followed by misoprostol (regimen differs by gestational age).

Mifepristone and misoprostol should be listed in relevant national EMLs (NEMLs) or their equivalent and should be included in the relevant clinical care/service delivery guidelines.

Restrictions on prescribing authority for some categories of health workers may need to be modified or other mechanisms put in place to make the medicines available for these health workers within the regulatory framework of the health system.
Where can abortion services be provided

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Related documents:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Primary health-care centres**
  - Not specified
    - • The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995
    - • Rules on Abortion Act, 1995

- **Secondary (district-level) health-care facilities**
  - Not specified
    - • The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995
    - • Rules on Abortion Act, 1995

- **Specialized abortion care public facilities**
  - Not specified
    - • The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995
    - • Rules on Abortion Act, 1995

- **Private health-care centres or clinics**
  - Not specified
    - • The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995
    - • Rules on Abortion Act, 1995

- **NGO health-care centres or clinics**
  - Not specified
    - • The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995
    - • Rules on Abortion Act, 1995

- **Other (if applicable)**
  - Terminations after 8 weeks of gestation must be performed in an approved institution.

Where the pregnancy is of not more than eight weeks duration and the treatment for the termination of the pregnancy is by any lawful and appropriate medical preparation other than a surgical one, it is not necessary for the pregnant woman to have the treatment administered in an approved institution.

  - • The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 6)
| Where can post abortion care services be provided | Primary health-care centres | Not specified |
| | Secondary (district-level) health-care facilities | Not specified |
| | Specialized abortion care public facilities | Not specified |
| | Private health-care centres or clinics | Not specified |
| | NGO health-care centres or clinics | Not specified |
| | Other (if applicable) | |

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

**Contraception included in post-abortion care**

Yes

**Related documents:**
- Rules on Abortion Act, 1995 (page 2)

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

All contraceptive options may be considered after an abortion. For individuals undergoing surgical abortion and wishing to use contraception, Abortion Care Guideline recommends the option of initiating the contraception at the time of surgical abortion. For individuals undergoing medical abortion, for those who choose to use hormonal contraception, the Abortion Care Guideline suggests that they be given the option of starting hormonal contraception immediately after the first pill of the medical abortion regimen. For those who choose to have an IUD inserted, Abortion Care Guideline suggests IUD placement at the time that success of the abortion procedure is determined. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.5.4.

**Source document:** WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 126)

**Insurance to offset end user costs**

Not specified

**Related documents:**
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995
- Rules on Abortion Act, 1995
- Criminal Law Offences Act, 1998

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Where user fees are charged for abortion, this should be based on careful consideration of ability to pay, and fee waivers should be available for those who are facing financial hardship and adolescent abortion seekers. As far as possible, abortion services and supplies should be mandated for coverage under insurance plans as inability to pay is not an acceptable reason to deny or delay abortion care. Furthermore, having transparent procedures in all health-care facilities can ensure that informal charges are not imposed by staff. Abortion Care Guideline § 1.4.2.

**Source document:** WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 53)
### Conscientious Objection

- **Who can provide abortion services**
  - Nurse
    - Not specified
  - Midwife/nurse-midwife
    - Not specified
  - Doctor (specialty not specified)
    - Not specified
  - Specialist doctor, including OB/GYN
    - Not specified
  - Other (if applicable)
    - Medical practitioner – for terminations for not more than 8 weeks duration. Authorised medical practitioner – for terminations of more than 8 weeks duration. An ‘authorised medical practitioner’ is “any person registered as a duly qualified medical practitioner under the Medical Practitioners Act 1991 and, being either a specialist in obstetrics and gynaecology with such experience as may be prescribed or a medical practitioner authorised in accordance with regulations made under section 16 to perform medical termination of pregnancy".

### Extra facility/provider requirements for delivery of abortion services

- **Referral linkages to a higher-level facility**
  - Not specified

- **Availability of a specialist doctor, including OB/GYN**
  - Not specified

- **Minimum number of beds**
  - Not specified

### Conscientious Objection (page 132)

Source document: [WHO Abortion Care Guideline](https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/abortion-care-guideline/en/)
The Abortion Care Guideline recommends that access to and continuity of comprehensive abortion care be protected against barriers created by conscientious objection. It is critical that States ensure compliance with regulations and design/organize health systems to ensure access to and continuity of quality abortion care. If it proves impossible to regulate conscientious objection in a way that respects, protects and fulfils abortion seekers’ rights, conscientious objection in abortion provision may become indefensible. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.9.

Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 98)

Additional notes
The Termination of Pregnancy Act also states: "Nothing in subsection (1) shall affect the duty of a person to participate in treatment for the termination of a pregnancy that is immediately necessary to save the life of a pregnant woman or to prevent grave permanent injury to her physical or mental health."
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility type not specified</th>
<th>Related documents:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not specified</td>
<td>The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rules on Abortion Act, 1995</td>
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</table>

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Where it is lawful, abortion must be accessible in practice. This requires both ensuring that health-care facilities, commodities and services are accessible (including sufficient providers), and that law and policy on abortion is formulated, interpreted and applied in a way that is compatible with human rights. Abortion Care Guideline § 1.3.1.

**Source document:** WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 48)

### Additional notes

The Termination of Pregnancy Act also states: "Nothing in subsection (1) shall affect the duty of a person to participate in treatment for the termination of a pregnancy that is immediately necessary to save the life of a pregnant woman or to prevent grave permanent injury to her physical or mental health."

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**Public facilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995</td>
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**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Where it is lawful, abortion must be accessible in practice. This requires both ensuring that health-care facilities, commodities and services are accessible (including sufficient providers), and that law and policy on abortion is formulated, interpreted and applied in a way that is compatible with human rights. Abortion Care Guideline § 1.3.1.

**Source document:** WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 48)

### Additional notes

Not specified

When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.

---

**Private facilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Where it is lawful, abortion must be accessible in practice. This requires both ensuring that health-care facilities, commodities and services are accessible (including sufficient providers), and that law and policy on abortion is formulated, interpreted and applied in a way that is compatible with human rights. Abortion Care Guideline § 1.3.1.

**Source document:** WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 48)

### Additional notes

Not specified

When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.

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**Neither Type of Provider Permitted**

**Individual health-care providers who have objected are required to refer the woman to another provider**

**Not specified**

When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Under the Termination of Pregnancy Act, the objective of conscientious objection is to protect the health-care provider from performing an abortion. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.9.

**Source document:** WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 98)

### Additional notes

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1995 (page 9)
## Indicators

Country specific information related to sexual and reproductive health indications. As data for the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators related to sexual and reproductive health become available, these will be provided, through periodic updates.

### Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)  

1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable  

1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)  

### Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio  

3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel  

3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods  

3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group  

3.8.2 Number of people covered by health insurance or a public health system per 1,000 population  

3.c.1 Health worker density and distribution  

### Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex  

### Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and nondiscrimination on the basis of sex  

5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age  

5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence  

5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18
5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age

No data

5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care

No data

5.6.2 Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15-49 years access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education

No data

5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure

No data

5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex

No data

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

No data

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by age, sex and persons with disabilities

No data

10.3.1 Proportion of the population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed within the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

No data

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months

No data

16.2.1 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation

No data

16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

No data

16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms

No data

16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months

No data

16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)

No data

16.6.2 Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services

No data

16.7.1 Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions

No data

16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

No data

16.10.1 Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months

No data

16.b.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

No data

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet

No data
### Additional Reproductive Health Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of married women with unmet need for family planning</td>
<td>28 (2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of births attended by trained health professional</td>
<td>85.7 (2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of women aged 20-24 who gave birth before age 18</td>
<td>16 (2009-2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total fertility rate</td>
<td>2.462 (2018)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal marital age for women, with parental consent</td>
<td>16 (2009-2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal marital age for women, without parental consent</td>
<td>18 (2009-2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Inequalities Index (Value)</td>
<td>0.50 (2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Inequalities Index (Rank)</td>
<td>122 (2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory paid maternity leave</td>
<td>no (2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age</td>
<td>26.7 (2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of secondary school completion rate for girls</td>
<td>1.26 (2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender parity in secondary education</td>
<td>0.992 (2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of women in non-agricultural employment</td>
<td>53.90 (2018)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of seats in parliament held by women</td>
<td>31.9 (2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex ratio at birth (male to female births)</td>
<td>1.05 (2018)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>