

# Country Profile: South Africa

Last Updated: 07 December 2023

Region: Southern Africa



## 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 Constitution:

- [Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Chapter II \(1996\)](#)

### From Health Regulation / Clinical Guidelines:

- [National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019](#)
- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020](#)

### From EML / Registered List:

- Medicines and Related Substances Control Act No.101 of 1965 as amended by inter alia

### From Document Relating to Funding:

- [Medical Schemes Act No 131 of 1998](#)

### From Abortion Specific Law:

- [Choice of Termination of pregnancy Act \(92/1996\) amended in 2008](#)
- [Regulations related to Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act](#)

### From Law on Health Care Services:

- [South Africa National Health Act, 2003](#)



## List of ratified human rights treaties:

- ✓ CERD
- ✓ CCPR
- ✓ Xst OP
- ✓ 2nd OP
- ✓ CESC
- ✓ CESC-OP
- ✓ CAT
- ✓ CAT-OP
- ✓ CEDAW
- ✓ CEDAW-OP
- ✓ CRC
- ✓ CRC:OPSC
- ✓ CRC:OPAC
- ✓ CRC:OPIC
- ✓ CMW
- ✓ CRPD \*
- ✓ CRPD-OP
- ✓ CED \*\*
- ✓ Maputo Protocol

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## Concluding Observations:

- CRC
- HRC
- CESC
- CRPD






## 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: 12



## Legal Ground and Gestational Limit









<p><b>Economic or social reasons</b></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008) (page 4 )</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 (page 13)</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Gestational limit</b></p> <p>Weeks: 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008) (page 4)</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 16)</a></p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 103)</a></p>
<p><b>Foetal impairment</b></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008) (page 4 )</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 (page 13)</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Gestational limit</b></p> <p>Weeks: No Limit Specified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008) (page 4)</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 64)</a></p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 103)</a></p>
<p><b>Rape</b></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008) (page 4 )</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 (page 13)</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Gestational limit</b></p> <p>Weeks: 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008) (page 4)</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 64)</a></p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 103)</a></p>








<p><b>Incest</b></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008) (page 4 )</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 (page 13)</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Gestational limit</b></p> <p>Weeks: 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008) (page 4)</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 64)</a></p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 103)</a></p>
<p><b>Intellectual or cognitive disability of the woman</b></p>	<p>No</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008) (page 6)</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>Additional notes</b></p> <p>The act does not stipulate that cognitive disability is a ground, but it does explicitly provide reference to consent in such circumstances.</p>
<p><b>Mental health</b></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008) (page 4 )</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 (page 13)</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Gestational limit</b></p> <p>Weeks: 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008) (page 4)</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 16)</a></p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 103)</a></p>
<p><b>Physical health</b></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008) (page 4 )</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 (page 13)</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Gestational limit</b></p> <p>Weeks: 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008) (page 4)</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 16)</a></p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 103)</a></p>









<p><b>Health</b></p>	<p> <b>Not specified</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008)</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 16)</a></p>
<p><b>Life</b></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008) (page 4 )</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 (page 13)</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Gestational limit</b></p> <p><b>Weeks: No Limit Specified</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008) (page 4)</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 where the life and health of the woman, girl or other pregnant person is at risk. Abortion Care Guideline § 2.2.2.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 64)</a></p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 103)</a></p>
<p><b>Other</b></p>	



## Additional Requirements to Access Safe Abortion

<p><b>Authorization of health professional(s)</b></p>	<p>No</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008) (page 6 )</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 (page 14 )</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 (page 147)</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 81)</a></p> <p> <b>Additional notes</b></p> <p>Authorisation is required after 13 weeks of gestation. The law does not use the term "authorise" but states that the abortion can only be carried out if it is in the opinion of the medical practitioner that the pregnancy would result in a risk of injury to the woman's health or several other negative specified outcomes. After 20 weeks, it must be in the opinion of the medical practitioner after consultation with another medical practitioner or registered midwife.</p>
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<p><b>Authorization in specially licensed facilities only</b></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008) (page 5 )</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 (page 147)</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 52)</a></p> <p> <b>Additional notes</b></p> <p>Termination of pregnancy (ToP) can take place in an accredited facility with staff trained in performing ToP, designated by the Member of Executive Council at provincial level.</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 (page 147)</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Judicial authorization for minors</b></p>	<p> <b>Not specified</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 81)</a></p>
<p><b>Judicial authorization in cases of rape</b></p>	<p> <b>Not specified</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 64)</a></p>
<p><b>Police report required in case of rape</b></p>	<p> <b>Not specified</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 64)</a></p>

<p><b>Parental consent required for minors</b></p>	<p>No</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008) (page )</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 (page 21)</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 81)</a></p> <p> <b>Additional notes</b></p> <p>Although abortion can be carried out on a minor without parental consent, the minor is advised to consult with her parents. If the minor does not advise a parent she cannot be refused care.</p>
<p><b>Spousal consent</b></p>	<p>No</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008) (page 6 )</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 (page 21 )</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 (page 147)</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 81)</a></p>
<p><b>Ultrasound images or listen to foetal heartbeat required</b></p>	<p>No</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 (page 25)</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 85)</a></p> <p> <b>Additional notes</b></p> <p>Ultrasound is not a prerequisite for the provision of termination of pregnancy.</p>
<p><b>Compulsory counselling</b></p>	<p>No</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008) (page 6 )</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 (page 18 )</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 (page 147)</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The content of 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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 77)</a></p> <p> <b>Additional notes</b></p> <p>Pre- and post-termination counselling is essential.</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 (page 147)</a></li> </ul>

<p><b>Compulsory waiting period</b></p>	<p> <b>Not specified</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 79)</a></p>
<p><b>Mandatory HIV screening test</b></p>	<p>No</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 (page 25 )</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 (page 148)</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 59)</a></p> <p> <b>Additional notes</b></p> <p>Routine laboratory testing is not a pre-requisite for TOP services and should not delay the TOP procedure. Tests, including HIV tests, when available, may be performed on the basis of individual risk factors, findings on physical examination, and available resources.</p>
<p><b>Other mandatory STI screening tests</b></p>	<p>No</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 (page 25 )</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 (page 148)</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 59)</a></p> <p> <b>Additional notes</b></p> <p>Routine laboratory testing is not a pre-requisite for TOP services and should not delay the TOP procedure. Tests, including HIV tests, when available, may be performed on the basis of individual risk factors, findings on physical examination, and available resources.</p>
<p><b>Prohibition of sex-selective abortion</b></p>	<p> <b>Not specified</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">Preventing Gender-Biased Sex Selection (page 17)</a></p>

<p><b>Restrictions on information provided to the public</b></p>	<p>No data found</p> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>Dissemination of misinformation, withholding of information and censorship should be prohibited.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 74)</a></p>
<p><b>Restrictions on methods to detect sex of the foetus</b></p>	<p>No data found</p> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 103)</a></p>
<p><b>Other</b></p>	

## Clinical and Service-delivery Aspects of Abortion Care

<p><b>National guidelines for induced abortion</b></p>	<p>Yes, guidelines issued by the government</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 (page 147 )</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 (page 1)</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>National standards and guidelines for abortion care should be evidence based and periodically updated and should provide the necessary guidance to achieve equal access to comprehensive abortion care. Leadership should also promote evidence-based SRH services according to these standards and guidelines. Abortion Care Guideline § 1.3.3.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 50)</a></p>
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**Methods allowed****Vacuum aspiration**

Yes (14 WEEKS)

- [National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 \(page 21 \)](#)
- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 \(page 148\)](#)

**Dilatation and evacuation**

- [National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 \(page 21 \)](#)
- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 \(page 148\)](#)

**Combination mifepristone-misoprostol**

Yes

- [National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 \(page 21 \)](#)
- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 \(page 148\)](#)

**Misoprostol only**

Yes

- [National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 \(page 21 \)](#)
- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 \(page 148\)](#)

**Other (where provided)****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.

The Abortion Care Guideline recommends against the practice of dilatation and sharp curettage (D&C), including for sharp curette checks (i.e. to “complete” the abortion) following vacuum aspiration. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.4.1.

↓ **Source document:** [WHO Abortion Care Guideline \(page 101\)](#)

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. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.4.1.

↓ **Source document:** [WHO Abortion Care Guideline \(page 103\)](#)

The recommended method for medical abortion is mifepristone followed by misoprostol (regimen differs by gestational age). Abortion Care Guideline § 3.4.2.

↓ **Source document:** [WHO Abortion Care Guideline \(page 106\)](#)

The Abortion Care Guideline recommends the use of misoprostol alone, with a regime that differs by gestational age. Evidence demonstrates that the use of combination mifepristone plus misoprostol is more effective than misoprostol alone. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.4.2.

↓ **Source document:** [WHO Abortion Care Guideline \(page 106\)](#)

**Country recognized approval (mifepristone / mife-misoprostol)**

Yes

**Related documents:**

- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 \(page 575\)](#)

**Pharmacy selling or distribution**

Yes, with prescription only

- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 \(page 575\)](#)

**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.

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

Inclusion in the NEM is one important component of ensuring that quality medicines are available.

For induced abortion, Mifepristone (200 mg) and misoprostol (200 µg), are recommended in the WHO EML. The EML specifically mentions the following co-packaged formulation: 1 tablet mifepristone (200 mg) + 4 tablets misoprostol (200 µg).

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. Abortion Care Guideline § 1.4.4.

↓ **Source document:** [WHO Abortion Care Guideline \(page 55\)](#)

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

Inclusion in the NEM is one important component of ensuring that quality medicines are available.

For induced abortion, Mifepristone (200 mg) and misoprostol (200 µg), are recommended in the WHO EML. The EML specifically mentions the following co-packaged formulation: 1 tablet mifepristone (200 mg) + 4 tablets misoprostol (200 µg).

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. Abortion Care Guideline § 1.4.4.

↓ **Source document:** [WHO Abortion Care Guideline \(page 55\)](#)

**Country recognized approval (misoprostol)**

Yes, for gynaecological indications

**Related documents:**

- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 \(page 575\)](#)

**Misoprostol allowed to be sold or distributed by pharmacies or drug stores**

Yes, with prescription only

- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 \(page 575\)](#)



**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.

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.

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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. Abortion Care Guideline § 1.4.4.

↓ **Source document:** [WHO Abortion Care Guideline \(page 55\)](#)

**Where can abortion services be provided**

**Related documents:**

- [National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 \(page 6 \)](#)
- [Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act \(2008\) \(page 5 \)](#)
- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 \(page 147\)](#)

**Primary health-care centres**

Yes

The Standard Treatment Guidelines 2020 suggest referral from primary healthcare settings if gestation is uncertain or is equal or more than 12 weeks and 1 day, in case of early pregnancy complications or any signs or symptoms of ectopic pregnancy; co-morbid conditions (heart disease, asthma, diabetes, anaemia, clotting disorder, seizure disorder, substance abuse, hypertension); large fibroids (may interfere with determining gestation age and/or MVA).; any signs of sepsis (tachycardia, hypotension, pyrexia, tachypnoea, offensive vaginal discharge); and if gestation is equal or more than 9 weeks and 1 day and MVA not available or declined.

- [National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 \(page 6 \)](#)
- [Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act \(2008\) \(page 5 \)](#)
- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 \(page 147\)](#)
- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 \(page 149\)](#)

**Secondary (district-level) health-care facilities**

Yes

The Standard Treatment Guidelines 2020 suggest referral from primary healthcare settings if gestation is uncertain or is equal or more than 12 weeks and 1 day, in case of early pregnancy complications or any signs or symptoms of ectopic pregnancy; co-morbid conditions (heart disease, asthma, diabetes, anaemia, clotting disorder, seizure disorder, substance abuse, hypertension); large fibroids (may interfere with determining gestation age and/or MVA).; any signs of sepsis (tachycardia, hypotension, pyrexia, tachypnoea, offensive vaginal discharge); and if gestation is equal or more than 9 weeks and 1 day and MVA not available or declined.

- [National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 \(page 6 \)](#)
- [Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act \(2008\) \(page 5 \)](#)
- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 \(page 147\)](#)
- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 \(page 149\)](#)

**Specialized abortion care public facilities**

Not specified

- [Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act \(2008\)](#)
- [National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019](#)
- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020](#)

**Private health-care centres or clinics**

Not specified

- [Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act \(2008\)](#)
- [National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019](#)
- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020](#)

**NGO health-care centres or clinics**

Not specified

- [Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act \(2008\)](#)
- [National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019](#)
- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020](#)



**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**

An accredited facility with staff trained in performing termination of pregnancy, designated by the Member of Executive Council at provincial level.

<p><b>National guidelines for post-abortion care</b></p>	<p>Yes, guidelines issued by the government</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 (page 147 )</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 (page 1)</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>National standards and guidelines for abortion care should be evidence based and periodically updated and should provide the necessary guidance to achieve equal access to comprehensive abortion care. Leadership should also promote evidence-based SRH services according to these standards and guidelines. Abortion Care Guideline § 1.3.3.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 50)</a></p>
<p><b>Where can post abortion care services be provided</b></p>	<p><b>Primary health-care centres</b></p> <p>Not specified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Regulations related to Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Secondary (district-level) health-care facilities</b></p> <p>Not specified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Regulations related to Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Specialized abortion care public facilities</b></p> <p>Not specified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Regulations related to Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Private health-care centres or clinics</b></p> <p>Not specified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Regulations related to Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020</a></li> </ul> <p><b>NGO health-care centres or clinics</b></p> <p>Not specified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (2008)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Regulations related to Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>The Abortion Care Guideline recommends the option of telemedicine as an alternative to in-person interactions with the health worker to deliver medical abortion services in whole or in part. Telemedicine services should include referrals (based on the woman’s location) for medicines (abortion and pain control medicines), any abortion care or post-abortion follow-up required (including for emergency care if needed), and for post-abortion contraceptive services. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.6.1.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 133)</a></p>
<p><b>Contraception included in post-abortion care</b></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Regulations related to Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act (page 3 )</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 (page 13 )</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 (page 148)</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 126)</a></p>

**Insurance to offset end user costs**

Yes

**Related documents:**

- [Medical Schemes Act No 131 of 1998 \(page 5 \)](#)
- [South Africa National Health Act, 2003 \(page 10\)](#)

**Induced abortion for all women**

Yes

Any woman who qualifies under a medical scheme as per the Medical Schemes Act can have coverage for abortion.

- [Medical Schemes Act No 131 of 1998 \(page 5\)](#)

**Induced abortion for poor women only**

No data found

**Abortion complications**

No data found

**Private health coverage**

Yes

- [Medical Schemes Act No 131 of 1998 \(page 5\)](#)

**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.

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 \(page 53\)](#)

**Who can provide abortion services**

**Related documents:**

- [Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act \(2008\) \(page 4 \)](#)
- [National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 \(page 13 \)](#)
- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 \(page 147\)](#)

**Nurse**

Yes

- [Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act \(2008\) \(page 4 \)](#)
- [National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 \(page 13 \)](#)
- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 \(page 147\)](#)

**Midwife/nurse-midwife**

Yes

- [Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act \(2008\) \(page 4 \)](#)
- [National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 \(page 13 \)](#)
- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 \(page 147\)](#)

**Doctor (specialty not specified)**

Yes

- [Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act \(2008\) \(page 4 \)](#)
- [National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 \(page 13 \)](#)
- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 \(page 147\)](#)

**Specialist doctor, including OB/GYN**

Not specified

- [Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act \(2008\)](#)
- [National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019](#)
- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020](#)



**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 against regulation on who can provide and manage abortion that is inconsistent with WHO guidance. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.8.

↓ **Source document:** [WHO Abortion Care Guideline \(page 97\)](#)

Extra facility/provider requirements for delivery of abortion services

### Referral linkages to a higher-level facility

Yes

- [Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act \(2008\) \(page 5 \)](#)
- [National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 \(page 39 \)](#)
- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 \(page 148\)](#)

### Availability of a specialist doctor, including OB/GYN

Not specified

The guidelines note that there should be a pathway to appropriate care for individuals with known significant medical conditions requiring specialist care.

- [Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act \(2008\)](#)
- [National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019](#)
- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020](#)
- [National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 \(page 44\)](#)

### Minimum number of beds

Not specified

- [Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act \(2008\)](#)
- [National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019](#)
- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020](#)

### Other (if applicable)

The guidelines note that there should be a pathway to appropriate care for individuals with known significant medical conditions requiring specialist care. It also suggests primary healthcare centers to refer individuals if gestation is equal or more than 9 weeks and 1 day and manual vacuum aspiration is not available.

- [Amended Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act \(2008\) \(page 5 \)](#)
- [National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 \(page 39 \)](#)
- [South Africa Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, 2020 \(page 148\)](#)



### 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 is no single recommended approach to providing abortion services. The choice of specific health worker(s) (from among the recommended options) or management by the individual themselves, and the location of service provision (from among recommended options) will depend on the values and preferences of the woman, girl or other pregnant person, available resources, and the national and local context. A plurality of service-delivery approaches can co-exist within any given context. Given that service-delivery approaches can be diverse, it is important to ensure that for the individual seeking care, the range of service-delivery options taken together will provide access to scientifically accurate, understandable information at all stages; access to quality-assured medicines (including those for pain management); back-up referral support if desired or needed; linkages to an appropriate choice of contraceptive services for those who want post-abortion contraception. Best Practice Statement 49 on service delivery. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.6.1.

↓ **Source document:** [WHO Abortion Care Guideline \(page 132\)](#)

## Conscientious Objection

Public sector providers

11-South-Africa-National-Guideline-for-Implementation-of-Choice-on-Termination-of-Pregnancy-Act-2019#page=16

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

Yes

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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.








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

Only the direct abortion provider can refuse to care, no other health care or support staff member can refuse to care.

<p><b>Private sector providers</b></p>	<p>11-South-Africa-National-Guideline-for-Implementation-of-Choice-on-Termination-of-Pregnancy-Act-2019#page=16</p> <p><b>Individual health-care providers who have objected are required to refer the woman to another provider</b></p> <p>Yes</p> <p>11-South-Africa-National-Guideline-for-Implementation-of-Choice-on-Termination-of-Pregnancy-Act-2019#page=16</p> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 98)</a></p> <p> <b>Additional notes</b></p> <p>Only the direct abortion provider can refuse to care, no other health care or support staff member can refuse to care.</p>
<p><b>Provider type not specified</b></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>11-South-Africa-National-Guideline-for-Implementation-of-Choice-on-Termination-of-Pregnancy-Act-2019#page=16</p> <p><b>Individual health-care providers who have objected are required to refer the woman to another provider</b></p> <p>Yes</p> <p>11-South-Africa-National-Guideline-for-Implementation-of-Choice-on-Termination-of-Pregnancy-Act-2019#page=16</p> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 98)</a></p> <p> <b>Additional notes</b></p> <p>Only the direct abortion provider can refuse to care, no other health care or support staff member can refuse to care.</p>
<p><b>Neither Type of Provider Permitted</b></p>	<p>11-South-Africa-National-Guideline-for-Implementation-of-Choice-on-Termination-of-Pregnancy-Act-2019#page=16</p> <p><b>Individual health-care providers who have objected are required to refer the woman to another provider</b></p> <p>Yes</p> <p>11-South-Africa-National-Guideline-for-Implementation-of-Choice-on-Termination-of-Pregnancy-Act-2019#page=16</p> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 98)</a></p> <p> <b>Additional notes</b></p> <p>Only the direct abortion provider can refuse to care, no other health care or support staff member can refuse to care.</p>
<p><b>Public facilities</b></p>	<p>No</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 (page 16 )</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">South Africa National Health Act, 2003 (page 10)</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 48)</a></p>

<p><b>Private facilities</b></p>	<p>No</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 (page 16 )</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">South Africa National Health Act, 2003 (page 10)</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 48)</a></p>
<p><b>Facility type not specified</b></p>	<p>No</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 (page 16 )</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">South Africa National Health Act, 2003 (page 10)</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 48)</a></p>
<p><b>Neither Type of Facility Permitted</b></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p><b>Related documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">National Guideline for Implementation of Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2019 (page 16 )</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">South Africa National Health Act, 2003 (page 10)</a></li> </ul> <p> <b>WHO Guidance</b></p> <p>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ <b>Source document:</b> <a href="#">WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 48)</a></p>

## 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)	No data
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	No data
1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)	No data

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

3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio	119 (2017)
3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	No data
3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods	No data
3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group	42.8 (2015-2020)
3.8.2 Number of people covered by health insurance or a public health system per 1,000 population	No data

3.c.1 Health worker density and distribution

No data

#### 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

No data

#### 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

No data

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

No data

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

No data

5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18

No data

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

16.2.2 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
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### Additional Reproductive Health Indicators

Percentage of married women with unmet need for family planning	<b>13.8</b> (2004)
Percentage of births attended by trained health professional	<b>96.7</b> (2016)
Percentage of women aged 20-24 who gave birth before age 18	<b>15</b> (2009-2013)
Total fertility rate	<b>2.405</b> (2018)
Legal marital age for women, with parental consent	<b>15</b> (2009-2017)
Legal marital age for women, without parental consent	<b>18</b> (2009-2017)
Gender Inequalities Index (Value)	<b>0.39</b> (2017)
Gender Inequalities Index (Rank)	<b>90</b> (2017)
Mandatory paid maternity leave	<b>yes</b> (2020)
Median age	<b>27.6</b> (2020)
Population, urban (%)	<b>66.355</b> (2018)
Percentage of secondary school completion rate for girls	<b>0.96</b> (2013)
Gender parity in secondary education	<b>0.985</b> (2015)
Percentage of women in non-agricultural employment	<b>35.1500015</b> (2019)
Proportion of seats in parliament held by women	<b>41</b> (2017)

