

# IMPORTANT POINTS

- ▶ **Mail-order abortion** is a dangerous practice which shortcuts proper medical care in favor of increased profits. There is no real doctor/patient relationship in a mail-order abortion.
- ▶ **Physicians** must thoroughly examine the woman—not look at her via webcam—to determine how far along she is and rule out an ectopic pregnancy, which is a potentially life-threatening complication
- ▶ **Follow-up care** is critical in the event of severe or potentially fatal complications. With mail-order abortions, the physician could be hundreds of miles away from the woman.
- ▶ **The FDA** has given the abortion pill a special label because of its risk of side effects. Abortion providers who do mail-order abortions are placing women's lives and health at risk.
- ▶ **Complications** from the abortion pill should be reported to the FDA so that accurate data is compiled. Reports can be made by patients online at [www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/medwatch/](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/medwatch/) or by calling 1-800-FDA-1088.

## THE ABORTION PILL IN MICHIGAN

For six years, telemedicine abortions were banned in the state of Michigan. At the end of 2018, the ban was set to expire. The Michigan Legislature passed a bill to extend the ban indefinitely, but in his final days in office, Governor Rick Snyder vetoed the bill.

In Michigan, women had 15,333 chemical abortions using the abortion pill in 2020, accounting for 52% of all abortions in the state.<sup>5</sup> Abortion pill numbers continue to increase because they are a time and cost-saving measure for abortion facilities.

### REFERENCES

- 1 Mifeprex medication guide, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, accessed December 28, 2021, <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/daf/index.cfm>
- 2 Ben Johnson, "Supreme Court Allows Abortionists to Violate FDA Guidelines When Using RU-486," LifeSiteNews.com, December 15, 2014, <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/supreme-court-allows-abortionists-to-violate-fda-guidelines-when-using-ru-4/>
- 3 Carole Novielli, "Increasing Number of Abortion Pill Expansion Schemes Flout FDA Safety Regulations," Live Action News, November 7, 2021, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/increasing-abortion-pill-expansion-flout-fda/>
- 4 Mifeprex medication guide, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, accessed December 28, 2021, <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/daf/index.cfm>
- 5 Mei You, Lindsey Myers & Glenn Radford, "Induced Abortions in Michigan," Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, June 2021.

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# THE DANGERS OF MAIL-ORDER ABORTIONS



## IT'S NOT TOO LATE: ABORTION PILL REVERSAL

If a woman has taken the first abortion drug but not the second, there is a chance to “reverse” the abortion and save the child. Progesterone, a hormone commonly prescribed to prevent miscarriages, can counteract the first drugs’ effects.

To learn more, and find a nearby licensed doctor that can help, call **(877) 558-0333** or visit **abortionpillreversal.com**.

## HOW DOES A MAIL-ORDER OR TELEMEDICINE ABORTION WORK?

The physician holds a “patient consultation” by phone or video chat with the woman seeking the abortion, who could be hundreds of miles away. Without any physical examination, the abortion pills are sent to the women via the mail—potentially unsecure and left on her porch or in her mailbox. After the woman has taken the drugs, she receives no direct follow-up care from the physician.

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**“Would you go to a  
medical practice  
where they don’t  
want you to ever  
meet your doctor?”**

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The practice is lucrative for abortion providers. The average charge for a chemical abortion is between \$300 to \$500. This process was developed by Planned Parenthood as a cost-saving measure: instead of doctors being physically

present to examine the woman at each of their abortion facilities, one doctor can manage several facilities in a single day.

## HOW DOES THE ABORTION PILL WORK?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the abortion drug RU-486 (brand name Mifeprex, also known as mifepristone) in 2000. The drug was sold as a safe, private way for a woman to abort if she was 7 weeks pregnant or less. The FDA expanded the use of the abortion pill up to 10 weeks gestation in 2016.

The medical abortion regimen involves two drugs. The initial dose of RU-486 blocks the pregnancy hormone progesterone, depriving the unborn child of nutrients and weakening the connection between her and her mother.

A second drug, misoprostol (a medication for ulcers), is taken 24 to 48 hours later at home and causes uterine contractions and expulsion of the dead baby.<sup>1</sup>

## FDA WARNINGS

When the FDA approved the drug, a REMS (Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy) was placed on the drug. There are 62 drugs with potentially serious side effects which require a REMS—RU-486 is one of them.

For years, abortion facilities were violating the original FDA guidelines by prescribing RU-486 to women who were farther along than 7 weeks<sup>2</sup>, and using telemedicine procedures to violate the in-person distribution requirement.<sup>3</sup>

## THE ABORTION PILL CAN BE DANGEROUS

A review of FDA data<sup>4</sup> shows that 85% of women report at least one or more of the following adverse reactions after taking the abortion pill:

- bleeding
- nausea
- weakness
- fever/chills
- vomiting
- headache
- diarrhea
- dizziness

Women bled/spotted for an average of 9 to 16 days. Between 2% and 7% of the abortions failed, meaning women needed follow-up surgical abortions.

The FDA has received reports of the deaths of 26 women associated with RU-486.

Undiagnosed ectopic pregnancies are particularly dangerous; the side effects of the abortion pill are similar to symptoms of a potentially fatal ruptured ectopic pregnancy. Ectopic pregnancies can’t be diagnosed by video chat.

