

## Are you a doctor that provides sexual and reproductive health services... including medical abortion?

*If the answer is no, here is some information that might encourage you to consider providing this essential service.*

**Around half of all pregnancies in Australia are unplanned.** Up to 1 in 3 Australian women will experience a termination in their lifetime.<sup>1</sup>

Medical terminations of pregnancy (MTO) are an appropriate service in many primary care settings. Women choose them as they are more accessible and less invasive than surgical terminations. However, few General Practitioners provide this service, and access to abortion across Australia remains difficult, particularly for young women and those living in rural and remote areas. You may be able to provide this service in your clinic, ensuring that your patients receive continuity of care from a doctor they trust.

### About medical abortion in Australia

As of 2020, abortion decriminalisation has occurred in every state except South Australia.

Since 2012, GPs and obstetricians and gynaecologists (O&Gs) have been able to prescribe medical abortion drugs to patients through their practice. The medications (mifepristone and misoprostol) are marketed in Australia as MS 2-Step, and are used to end pregnancies less than nine weeks gestation. They are extremely safe and effective, with an efficacy rate up to 97.7%<sup>2</sup>.

### Why offer medical abortion in general practice?

Patients accessing MTO in general practice describe high levels of satisfaction, appreciation of the convenience and continuity of care, and a sense of comfort and trust due to their existing relationship with the healthcare provider<sup>3</sup>.

Providing MTO in general practice increases access, especially for vulnerable patients. It also potentially decreases stigma, cost, and travel for patients. It allows patients greater continuity of care, as they may also access contraception, pregnancy planning and STI screening through you.

### Becoming a licensed prescriber is free and easy

To become a certified prescriber of MS-2 Step you must register online at [www.ms2step.com.au](http://www.ms2step.com.au). Registration is free, and takes less than 5 minutes to complete.

Additionally, GPs need to complete the free online training module (this usually takes 2-3 hours).

### Support is available

For more information and supports about becoming a MTO provider, please go to:

- [1] Children By Choice – “Becoming a Medical Abortion Provider”  
[www.childrenbychoice.org.au/forprofessionals/becoming-a-medical-abortion-provider](http://www.childrenbychoice.org.au/forprofessionals/becoming-a-medical-abortion-provider)
- Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health – “Health Practitioner Resource Hub For Unintended Pregnancy And Abortion”  
[www.cersh.com.au/resource-hub](http://www.cersh.com.au/resource-hub)
- [2] [3] Australian Journal of General Practice – “Medical abortion”  
[www1.racgp.org.au/ajgp/2020/june/medical-abortion](http://www1.racgp.org.au/ajgp/2020/june/medical-abortion)
- The Royal Women’s Hospital – “Abortion: medical management, up to 9 weeks of pregnancy”  
[https://thewomens.r.worldssl.net/images/uploads/downloadable-records/clinical-guidelines/abortion-medical-management-up-to-9weeks-pregnancy\\_280720.pdf](https://thewomens.r.worldssl.net/images/uploads/downloadable-records/clinical-guidelines/abortion-medical-management-up-to-9weeks-pregnancy_280720.pdf)
- Marie Stopes Australia - “become a prescriber or dispenser”  
[www.mariestopes.org.au/become-a-prescriber](http://www.mariestopes.org.au/become-a-prescriber)