

## Infographic: What are medical abortions — and how accessible are they?

Medication abortion, also known as medical abortion or abortion with pills, is an FDA approved pregnancy termination protocol that involves taking two different drugs, mifepristone and misoprostol, for use up to the first 70 days (10 weeks) of pregnancy. Studies show that medication abortion care is safe and effective. This infographic highlights data and policies regarding the availability and effectiveness of medication abortion in the United States. Medication abortion accounts for more than half (54%) of all abortions before nine weeks gestation in the United States.

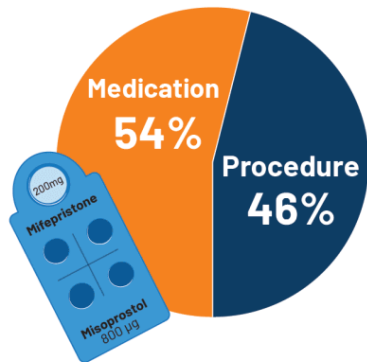
On April 12, 2021, the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research [notified](#) the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) that they are suspending enforcement of the Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) requirement for mifepristone that requires prescribers to dispense to patients in-person during the COVID-19 emergency. This temporarily allows providers in the 32 states and DC that do not have laws that otherwise ban this practice to dispense mifepristone using the telehealth protocol for medication abortion. The FDA has also undertaken a full review of the REMS for mifepristone and the results of that review are expected later in 2021.

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# The Availability and Use of Medication Abortion Care

## Medication Abortion Care is a Safe and Effective Option to End an Early Pregnancy



In 2018, medication abortion accounted for 54% of abortions before 9 weeks gestation in the U.S.

### Over 95%

Effective in terminating pregnancies up to 10 weeks last menstrual period

### 0.4%

Risk of major complications

### 20+ Years

Since first approved by the FDA

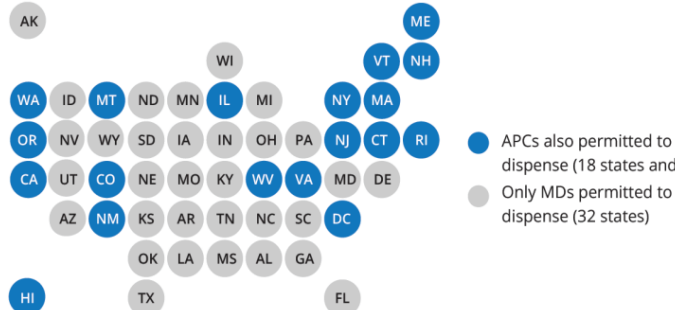
## The FDA is Reviewing the Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) in Place for Mifepristone

### REMS Requirements

- ✓ The prescribing clinician must be certified by a mifepristone distributor.
- ✓ The prescriber may only dispense to patients in-person in health care settings.  
*FDA enforcement suspended during the COVID-19 emergency.*
- ✓ The prescriber must obtain a patient agreement form from the patient before dispensing mifepristone.

The REMS limits distribution of mifepristone to certified providers and bans retail pharmacies and all other providers from dispensing the medication.

## 18 States and DC Allow Both Advance Practice Clinicians (APCs) and MDs to Dispense Abortion Pills

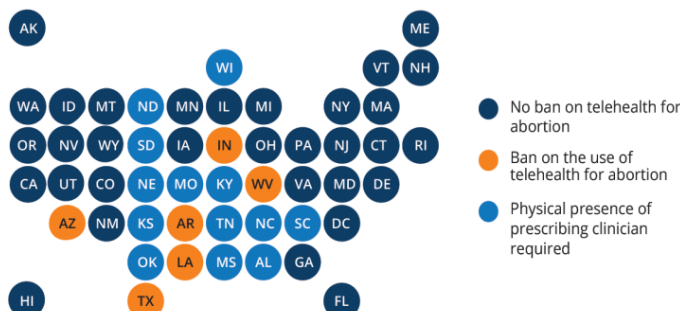


Studies have documented that mifepristone can be safely dispensed by both APCs (e.g. nurse practitioners, physician associates, and nurse midwives) and MDs.

## Telehealth for Medication Abortion Has Been Available on a Trial Basis for Years, and More Broadly During the Pandemic

- Research shows that medication abortion via telehealth is as safe and effective as in-person dispensing.
- Some telehealth companies offer virtual doctor's appointments and mail mifepristone to patients to access abortion care safely in their homes.
- 78% of patients who have obtained medication abortion via telehealth have been very satisfied with their experience.

## 19 States Ban the Use of Telehealth for Abortion or Require a Doctor to be Present When Dispensing the Medication



Credit: Kaiser Family Foundation

[Read the original post here.](#)