

C.3 Medical abortion - S22

MSF strongly supports the proposal from the WHO department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research and the UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction to add a new section in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines (EML). This section will be named section 22.4 “Medicines for medical abortion” and will list mifepristone-misoprostol tablet 200 mg – tablet 200 micrograms, and co-package containing: mifepristone 200 mg tablet [1] and misoprostol 200 micrograms tablet [4], for “Management of intrauterine fetal demise” and “Management of induced abortion and misoprostol tablet 200 micrograms for “Management of incomplete abortion and miscarriage”.

MSF warmly welcomes that a specific section will be dedicated in the EML for medicines for medical abortion, as access to medical abortion is one of the key strategies to reduce maternal mortality and in many places in the world women and girls still face many barriers to access safe abortion care services.

MSF recommends removing the sentence accompanying mifepristone – misoprostol: **“Where permitted under national law and where culturally acceptable”**, as retaining this sentence could worsen the barrier to safe abortion care.

MSF would like to raise important concerns regarding the use of co-packaged mifepristone and misoprostol for safe abortion care. MSF points out that the standard co-package, containing one 200 mg mifepristone tablet and four 200 microgram misoprostol tablets, may not provide sufficient flexibility for both first and second trimester safe abortion care. In some cases, patients may require additional misoprostol tablets, which would necessitate cutting the blister pack to access these misoprostol tablets, potentially compromising the integrity of the packaging. MSF emphasizes that the need for extra misoprostol tablets can be challenging for settings where access to individually packaged medicines is limited, and only combined blister packs are available. To address these issues, MSF recommends maintaining mifepristone and misoprostol as separate products in individual packaging, allowing for more precise dosing and easier administration of additional misoprostol tablets when needed. Therefore, MSF recommends including mifepristone 200 mg as a single medicine in the new section named 22.4 “Medicines for medical abortion”.

MSF has been using misoprostol and mifepristone in its programs since 2005.

MSF recommends that the 25th Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines consider all these elements in its decision-making process and MSF urges the Committee to add a new section named 22.4 “Medicines for medical abortion” to the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines.




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