

Urine β hCG Testing to Assess Completion of Medication Abortion

Typically used in virtual follow-up using the following protocol.

Ensure that patients take the urine pregnancy test (the first test) **at least 3 weeks after misoprostol** was taken.



If the test is negative: the abortion is complete.



If the test is positive, review signs and symptoms of ongoing pregnancy, retained product of conception and ectopic pregnancy.

If signs and symptoms are present:

Consider ordering ultrasound and / or β hCG, and if ultrasound shows:

- **Retained products:** consider an additional dose of misoprostol or procedural abortion.
- **Ongoing pregnancy:** consider an additional dose of misoprostol or procedural abortion.
- **Ectopic pregnancy:** manage as is clinically indicated and refer as needed (possibly with urgency).
- **Negative ultrasound:** consider a new pregnancy of unknown location, rule out ectopic pregnancy and have the patient repeat urine pregnancy test (second pregnancy test) in one week.

If absent:

Ask the patient to repeat the urine pregnancy test (second test) one week after the first pregnancy test.

- **If the test is negative:** the abortion is complete.
- **If the test is positive:** order urgent in-person assessment with ultrasound and β hCG.

REFERENCES:

Costescu D, Guilbert E et al. Medical abortion. Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada, 2016; Volume 38, Issue 4, 366 – 389.

Guilbert E, Costescu D, et al. Canadian protocol for the provision of medical abortion via telemedicine; SOGC 2020.

Judith Soon & Nevena Rebic. Pharmacist resource guide for medical abortion. 2018. CART-GRAC 2020.