

ABORTION PROCEDURE AFTER-CARE

Today you had an abortion procedure. You will probably feel fine when you go home. You can go back to your regular activities as soon as you want to. You can take a shower and wash your hair as soon as you want to. You can eat normally, although you may still feel nauseated for another few days.

Are there things you should not do? Yes. For one week, do not put anything in your vagina. Do not use tampons, do not douche, and do not have sex.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Vaginal Bleeding: You can expect to have bleeding for up to 2 weeks. It is common for the bleeding to stop and start for several weeks after the abortion. Some people have no bleeding for 2 or 3 days and then begin to have bleeding like a period. Other people have only spotting for a few days and then no more bleeding at all. If you exercise or have a lot of activity, you may notice the bleeding increases; this is not dangerous.

Cramping: You may have cramps off and on during the week following an abortion. You can use pain medication like Tylenol, Ibuprofen (Motrin or Advil), or Naproxen (Aleve or Nasprosyn). You can also use a heating pad, or drink some warm tea.

Sadness or very emotional: You may feel very relieved when the abortion is over. You may also feel sad or moody. These feelings are partly from the changes in hormones, now that you are no longer pregnant. Feeling emotional at this time is normal. If you think your emotions are not what they should be, please talk to us.

When will your period come back? You can expect a period in 4 to 8 weeks. It is not the same for everyone.

You **should** call me if:

- Your bleeding soaks through more than 2 maxi pads per hour for more than 2 hours.
- Your cramps that are getting stronger and are not helped by pain medication.
- If your temperature is higher than 101 degrees (38.3 degrees Celcius).

To reach me:

Call my 24-hour number: _____. If you have any questions or think something is going wrong, call this number and I will call you back. It may take me 10 to 15 minutes to return your call. No question is too small. **Please feel free to call me.**

Follow-up visit: You have an appointment in 1 week, _____ at _____am/pm.

Birth Control:

If you want to use birth control pills, patch, or ring, I have given you a prescription. You should start these on _____, even if you are still bleeding.