

Session 5/Medical Ministry

In this session, we will hear from our Medical Staff as they explain our process of medical care that we provide. Below is space available for you to take notes.

Our Process (Notes)

Pregnancy Information

To become pregnant, the following steps must occur:

- Sperm transport - The sperm must be deposited and transported to the site of fertilization.
- Egg transport - Ovulation must occur, and the egg must be "picked up" by the tube.
- Fertilization and embryo development - Union between the sperm and egg must result.
- Implantation - The embryo must implant and grow in the uterus.
- Ectopic Pregnancy - If the fertilized egg implants outside of your uterus, it is most common in your fallopian tube, which is not designed to hold a growing embryo. It is a life threatening condition and requires emergency treatment.

You can take most pregnancy tests from the first day after a missed period. If you don't know when your next period is due, do the test at least 21 days after you last had unprotected sex. Some very sensitive pregnancy tests can be used even before you miss a period.

There are two main types of pregnancy tests: urine and blood tests.

Urine tests are typically done at home, though you can have a urine test done at your healthcare provider's office. Blood tests are only done at healthcare provider's request. They are more sensitive and require a special medium to detect a smaller presence of HCG.

Fetal Development

22 days	Heart is beating, brain and spinal cord are begin forming.
6 – 7 Weeks	Arms, legs and kidneys are forming. Nerves develop as the brain and spinal cord develop.
9 – 10 Weeks	Has distinct fingers and can hiccup. Nearly all major organs are starting to develop. Baby is active and can be seen waving arms and kicking on a sonogram.
12 Weeks	Baby is fully formed. Unique fingerprints are forming.
16 Weeks	The sex of the baby is established, it is possible to tell via ultrasound. The liver and pancreas start working.
28 Weeks	A sense of taste is developed, based on what Mom eats. The baby’s brain grows rapidly and eyes can open wide. May even have hair!
32 Weeks	Toenails and fingernails are fully formed, lungs continue to grow.
40 Weeks/Birth	Baby is turning to a head-down position and is getting ready to meet you!

Abortion Information

Medical Abortion

Up to 10 weeks	Abortion Pill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses two different drugs, mifepristone and misoprostol. • Mifepristone breaks down the connection to the mother by blocking the pregnancy hormone progesterone, which is needed to support fetal development. • Misoprostol causes strong cramps and heavy bleeding that expel the embryo. • The developing baby is clearly identified as having arms, legs and feet. • It takes about 24 hours for this to happen. • This process does sometime fail and may require immediate medical attention. • It is not a miscarriage, although it is compared to one symptomatically. It is an intentional medical intervention with the sole purpose of ending the life of a living, growing human being. • Side effects reported: Pain, Dizziness, Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea, Headaches, Fever & Chills. • Risks: incomplete abortion, infection, bleeding, birth defects.
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Surgical Abortion

<p>Up to 13 Weeks (1st Trimester)</p>	<p>Dilation & Suction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pain medication and sedation may be given. • Pelvic exam or ultrasound performed. • A speculum is then inserted into her vagina and open to get a visual of her cervix. • Her cervix is then dilated with rods of progressively larger dimension to create an opening for the cannula, which is connected to a suction device. • The cannula is then inserted through the cervix and into the uterus. The suction pulls the baby's body apart and out of the uterus. • A curette may also be used to scrape the inside of the uterus to remove any remaining tissue or body parts. • Risks: infection, bleeding, puncture of uterus, difficulty in future conception.
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<p>After 13 Weeks (2nd Trimester)</p>	<p>Dilation & Evacuation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pelvic exam or ultrasound performed. • A day before the procedure, Laminaria or prostaglandin gel are placed in the cervical canal to soften and open it slightly. • Day of the procedure, medication or sedation is given. • A speculum is then inserted into her vagina and open to get a visual of her cervix. The cervix is numbed with local anesthesia. • Up until about 15-16 weeks this procedure starts like a first trimester abortion with dilation and suction but the opening the cervix wider as the baby is bigger and the bones are hardening. • It also includes the use of forceps to grasp and remove fetal parts that are too big to fit down the suction tube. • After 15 weeks, surgical instruments alone are used to grasp, crush and remove fetal parts as they are too large to fit through the suction tubing. • Some doctors use lethal injections to end the baby's life prior to the procedure, which will also soften the bones and is considered reducing risk for the mother. • All removed parts of the baby must be accounted for to ensure that none were left behind in the womb.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risks: incomplete abortion, infection, excessive bleeding, punctured uterus, premature delivery of future pregnancies, infertility due to scar tissue.
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Late Term Abortion

After 24 Weeks (3 rd Trimester)	Intact Dilation & Extraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General anesthesia is recommended. A speculum is then inserted into her vagina and open to get a visual of her cervix. The cervix is numbed with local anesthesia. It is then stretched open with the use of dilators. The goal is to remove the fetus in one piece to ensure that there are no parts left behind in the uterus. Ultrasound is used to detect the feet. Forceps are then used to pull the fetus through the cervix, with much of the body being delivered. Prior to delivery of the head, it is crushed at the base of the skull to ensure it will fit through the cervix. It is impossible to dilate the cervix large enough to fit the head without doing so. A suction machine or curette is then used to extract the placenta and clear any remaining tissue. Risks: hemorrhaging, infection, punctured uterus, infection, premature delivery of future pregnancies, infertility due to scar tissue.
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After 24 Weeks (3 rd Trimester)	Medically Induced Late Term Abortion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This process uses drugs to induce a woman to give birth, usually in the same ward as Labor & Delivery in a hospital. Lethal injections are usually administered to the fetus before the procedure begins. Mifepristone, misoprostol or Pitocin is given to the woman to induce labor. Once labor has started, delivery of a dead fetus follows within 10-24 hours. Risks: hemorrhaging, infection, punctured uterus, infection, premature delivery of future pregnancies, infertility due to scar tissue. Risks: hemorrhaging, infection, punctured uterus, infection, premature delivery of future pregnancies, infertility due to scar tissue.
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Options

At Rockville Women's Center, we believe that most women do not want to have an abortion but feel as though it is their only option. We seek to provide women with information and support in a professional, medical setting to empower them to choose life. If a woman feels support and security, she may be more open to choosing to have her baby. Our mission is to empower abortion-vulnerable women to embrace life-affirming decisions.

Each woman receives a free pregnancy test and is guided through her three options: abortion, adoption and parenting. She receives accurate information that includes all risks and hardships associated with each option to help her make an informed decision. She is also offered an opportunity to talk about faith and hear the Gospel.

As your training progresses, you will have time and opportunity to learn good information, good guidance and good boundaries as you share.

A woman with a positive pregnancy test receives a sonogram and STD testing. These additional services provide her with critical information about the viability of her pregnancy, and the associated spiritual, emotional, and physical risks associated with an abortion.

When a woman makes a decision to parent her child, she has the opportunity to participate in our Effective Parenting Program (EPP). EPP offers classes from the second trimester of pregnancy through parenting of young children, lasting on average until the child is 2 years old. Topics include pregnancy health, childbirth, caring for infants and discipline. Her partner can also be included in the classes.

Abortion Recovery and Restoration Ministry

For a woman who has already experienced an abortion, RWC offers one-on-one post abortion counseling. Trained spiritual counselors walk with her through an 8-week Bible study that focuses on God's complete forgiveness and healing restoration following an abortion. This is also available to men, for them to meet one-on-one with another man to experience God's complete forgiveness and healing as well.