

Document 3

From: [Redacted s.38(1)(b)] @RCOG.ORG.UK>

Sent: 21 March 2020 19:14

Cc: [Redacted s.38(1)(b)]@RCOG.ORG.UK>; [Redacted s.38(1)(b)]@RCOG.ORG.UK>;

[Redacted s.38(1)(b)]@RCOG.ORG.UK>

Subject: Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection and abortion care guidance

Dear colleagues

The RCOG has [published guidance](#) today on coronavirus infection and abortion care services. This recognises the need to provide more services remotely, but maintains that abortion care is an essential service.

We continue to advocate for home use of mifepristone as a solution to providing early medical abortions completely remotely, removing the need for those women to expose themselves or others to the virus. We are hopeful that a decision about this will be made by the government shortly. In addition, we recognise that certification may quickly become an issue and are currently seeking a change to legislation which will allow other healthcare professionals to sign statutory forms.

The guidance will hopefully expand and continue to be updated if and when regulation or legislation changes.

Please circulate and share as widely as possible. If you have suggested changes please email either myself or COVID-19@rcog.org.uk.

Best wishes,

[Redacted s.38(1)(b)]

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

[Redacted s.38(1)(b)]

E: [Redacted s.38(1)(b)]@rcog.org.uk

Website: www.rcog.org.uk



Document 13

From: [Redacted s.38(1)(b)] @dhsc.gov.uk>

Sent: 30 March 2020 09:59

To: [Redacted s.38(1)(b)] @gov.wales; [Redacted s.38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted s.38(1)(b)] @dhsc.gov.uk>; [Redacted s.38(1)(b)] @gov.wales; [Redacted s.38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>

Subject: RE: VERY URGENT: AMENDMENTS ON ABORTION TO THE EMERGENCY BILL

Hi all,

Please find attached an updated temporary approval. This will shortly be published on gov.uk and sets out that:

Women and girls will be able to take both pills for early medical abortion up to 10 weeks in their own homes, without the need to first attend a hospital or clinic.

Registered Medical practitioners (doctors) will be able to prescribe both pills for the treatment of early medical abortion up to 10 weeks from their own homes.

[Redacted s.28(1)]

Do let us know if you have any questions about this, and keep us updated on progress from your side.

Thanks,

[Redacted s.38(1)(b)]

Abortion and Sexual Health



The Abortion Act 1967 - Approval of a Class of Places

This approval supersedes the approval of 27 December 2018. This approval expires on the day on which the temporary provisions of the Coronavirus Act 2020 expire, or the end of the period of 2 years beginning with the day on which it is made, whichever is earlier.

The Secretary of State makes the following approval in exercise of the powers conferred by section 1(3) and (3A) ¹of the Abortion Act 1967²:

Interpretation

1. In this approval –

“home” means, in the case of a pregnant woman, the place in England where a pregnant woman has her permanent address or usually resides or, in the case of a registered medical practitioner, the place in England where a registered medical practitioner has their permanent address or usually resides;

“approved place” means a hospital in England, as authorised under section 1(3) of the Abortion Act 1967, or a place in England approved under that section.

Approval of class of place

2. The home of a registered medical practitioner is approved as a class of place for treatment for the termination of pregnancy for the purposes only of prescribing the medicines known as Mifepristone and Misoprostol to be used in treatment carried out in the manner specified in paragraph 4.

3. The home of a pregnant woman who is undergoing treatment for the purposes of termination of her pregnancy is approved as a class of place where the treatment for termination of pregnancy may be carried out where that treatment is carried out in the manner specified in paragraph 4.

4. The treatment must be carried out in the following manner-

- a) the pregnant woman has-
 - i) attended an approved place;

¹ Section 1(3A) was inserted by section 37(3) of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (c. 37).

² 1967 c. 87.

ii)) had a consultation with an approved place via video link, telephone conference or other electronic means, or

iii) had a consultation with a registered medical practitioner via video link, telephone conference or other electronic means; and

b) the pregnant woman is prescribed Mifepristone and Misoprostol to be taken for the purposes of the termination of her pregnancy and the gestation of the pregnancy has not exceeded nine weeks and six days at the time the Mifepristone is taken.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mark Davies

Director, Population Health

30 March 2020