

Clinical Protocol

UNITY SEXUAL HEALTH ABORTION CARE PATHWAY

SETTING	Pregnancy Advisory Service (PAS), Marie Stopes International (MSI) and British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS)
FOR STAFF	All clinical and admin staff involved in the abortion pathway in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucester (BNSSG)
PATIENTS	Pregnant people accessing Unity Sexual Health for pregnancy advice

ELIGIBILITY

Any pregnant person who is registered with or eligible to register with a GP in Bristol, North Somerset or South Gloucestershire is eligible for an NHS-funded abortion.

Please note, this description does not cover the pathway for abortion care where fetal abnormality is the indication.

Abortion (under category C of the abortion act) is legal in England up to 24 weeks gestation; an abortion procedure can be undertaken in BNSSG up to 23 weeks and 6 days. Patients who have a specific medical condition which means MSI are unable to see them may be referred out of area to the **Homerton Hospital**.

REFERRAL

Patients may self-refer or can be referred by a friend, family member or a healthcare professional.

All first appointments are booked via the Central Booking Service. This service is provided by Marie Stopes International (MSI): [REDACTED]

Patients should be offered an appointment for an assessment within 3 working days for either a telephone consultation or a face-to-face appointment.

ASSESSMENT

Patients will be assessed at either:

PAS

Central Health Clinic, Tower Hill, Bristol BS2 OJD

MSI

Stoke Gifford, Bristol BS34 8TT

BPAS

Millstream House, Castle Street, Taunton TA1 4AS - currently only offering postal Early Medical Abortion at home (EMAH) or surgical procedure in hospital

Children under the age of 18 will be assessed **only** in PAS. Children under 16 will always be assessed by two clinicians. Following assessment, they can have an Early Medical Abortion at home (14 and over), or they will be referred for treatment at an NHS hospital or MSI as appropriate.

Patients seen at PAS

Can be booked into the following procedures:

- **Early Medical Abortion at home (EMAH)** with immediate discharge
 - PAS up to and including 9 weeks and 6 days

- MSI up to and including 9 weeks 6 days
- **Early Medical Abortion in hospital**
 - St Michael's Hospital up to and including 10 weeks
- **Late Medical Abortion**
 - St Michael's Hospital from 10 weeks 1 day up to and including 18 weeks
- **Vacuum Aspiration Abortion under general anaesthetic:**
 - St Michael's Hospital from 7 weeks up to and including 12 weeks
 - MSI from as soon as an intrauterine pregnancy is confirmed (i.e. yolk sac is visible on ultra sound scan) up to and including 23 weeks and 6 days
- **Manual Vacuum Aspiration (MVA) under local anaesthetic (LA) or conscious sedation (CS)**
 - Southmead Hospital (LA) from as soon as an intrauterine pregnancy is confirmed (i.e. yolk-sac is visible on ultrasound scan) up to and including 12 weeks
 - MSI/BPAS (LA and CS) from as soon as an intrauterine pregnancy is confirmed (i.e. yolk sac is visible on ultrasound scan) up to and including 18 weeks

PAS staff should contact the supervisors at MSI on [REDACTED] when booking women for a procedure at MSI

ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

MSI and BPAS

Following a telephone consultation with MSI - patients will be given a choice of where they would like their procedure i.e. PAS or MSI.

Following a telephone consultation with BPAS - patients would usually stay within their service as they often live in North Somerset.

Following face-to-face consultation - patients will usually have the procedure at the service they attend for assessment. However, patients who are assessed at MSI may subsequently choose to attend PAS or this may be indicated by pre-existing medical conditions.

Early Medical Abortions at Home

- No bloods routinely required
- Consent will usually be obtained over the phone during a telephone consultation or will be done in PAS at appointment

Southmead/St Michaels Hospital surgical procedures

- Bloods (venepuncture) for group and save (G&S) and haemoglobin (Hb)
- MRSA swab (St Michaels STOP only)
- Consent will be taken at PAS prior to admission to hospital
- Check COVID vaccination status and follow current guidelines for testing prior to admission

St Michaels Hospital late medical abortions

- Bloods (venepuncture) for group and save (G&S) and haemoglobin (Hb)
- MRSA swab
- Consent will be taken at PAS prior to admission to hospital
- Check COVID vaccination status and follow current guidelines for testing prior to admission

St Michaels Hospital Early medical abortions

- No bloods routinely required
- MRSA swab
- Consent will be taken at PAS prior to admission to hospital

MSI Bristol

- Bloods as required for STOPs
- Consent will be taken at the pre assessment appointment by MSI staff

BPAS

- Bloods as required for STOPs
- Consent will be taken on the day of the procedure by BPAS staff

STI testing - Everybody will be offered sexual health testing at their appointment or directed to the Unity website to order a testing kit.

Procedure for patients who have a medical condition that requires an out-of-area referral for a surgical abortion

Gestation between 18 to 23 + 6 weeks

Contact the **Homerton** hospital - either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (See information in [REDACTED])

Table A

REFERENCES	
RELATED DOCUMENTS AND PAGES	1. Abortion Care NICE Guideline NG 140 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/NG140
AUTHORISING BODY	Unity Clinical Guidelines Group
SAFETY	No issues identified
QUERIES AND CONTACT	QUERIES Contact PAS Consultants [REDACTED], [REDACTED] or lead Nurse [REDACTED].