DEFINITIONS

LOCAL ANAESTHETIC:
Local anaesthetic is generally only available at clinics. It is a numbing medicine that is placed on the cervix. The woman will be awake during the procedure. A woman will also usually have the option of a light sedative to help relax during the procedure.

GENERAL ANAESTHETIC:
General anaesthetic is generally only available at hospitals. A woman under general anaesthetic will be asleep during the procedure and will need to stay at the hospital longer after the procedure while the anaesthesia wears off.

BUBBLE ZONE:
The only province in Canada that has a bubble zone is British Columbia. This bubble zone was created by the Abortion Services Act 1996 and includes two of their six clinics. It is a zone that was created to keep protesters away from the entrance of the building and away from the staff and patients. Protest activities such as sidewalk interference, protesting, harassing, physical interference, and attempting to interfere or intimidate a doctor, staff, or patient are prohibited. A person can be arrested under this Act.

INJUNCTION:
An injunction is similar to a bubble zone in that a person has to stay a certain distance away from the building, staff, patients, and doctor. Injunction guidelines will vary between different provinces and territories. Private injunctions are not subject to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and cannot be challenged in court. Many clinics do not have injunctions because obtaining one requires a lot of proof and is expensive and time-consuming. Law enforcement authorities are not always aware of injunctions so clinics that have injunctions should inform law enforcement officials and monitor the situation closely.

CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTRES:
This term is often used by various ‘pro-life’ or ‘anti-abortion’ centres that offer services to women who are faced with an unplanned pregnancy. CPCs may advertise their services as supportive and helpful to pregnant women but, their main goal is often to intimidate a doctor, staff, or patient are prohibited. A person can be arrested under this Act.

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MATERNITY LEAVE:
Maternity leave is a period of time taken by the mother during pregnancy to prepare for a minor child undergoing a medical procedure like abortion.

AGE OF MAJORITY:
Age of majority is 18 in: Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, and Saskatchewan. Age of majority is 19 in: British Columbia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Yukon.

REFERRAL:
A referral is the recommendation of a medical or paramedical professional. A referral can be obtained for abortion services by a family doctor, walk-in clinic or sexual health centre.

MEDICAL ABORTION:
Medical abortion can be used to terminate early pregnancies up to the 7th week of pregnancy. In Canada it is done by using a combination of two drugs called methotrexate and misoprostol, which cost approximately $80.00. Methotrexate is taken orally by injection and then, misoprostol tablets placed inside the vagina 5-7 days after the methotrexate is administered. The misoprostol will cause the muscles inside the uterus to contract, emptying its contents. This process can take from one day to several weeks. If a medical abortion does not cause the body to expel the pregnancy tissue, the patient will be required to have a surgical abortion as the pregnancy will no longer be viable.

SURGICAL ABORTION:
There are three different surgical abortion methods: manual vacuum aspiration (MVA), dilation and suction curettage (D&C), dilation and evacuation (D&E). The two most common methods are MVA and D&C. In each case the procedure involves emptying the uterus with gentle suction by a manual syringe or device and then using a small loop-shaped instrument called a curette to remove the remaining pregnancy tissue from the walls of the uterus. The procedure itself takes approximately 10 minutes and like most surgeries, has almost a 100% success rate.

OUT-OF-PROVINCE/RECIPROCAL BILLING:
Generally, medical services are covered by reciprocal billing to allow Canadians to have full healthcare coverage when they travel between provinces or territories. However, some provinces or territories have yet to remove abortion from their list of excluded services for reciprocal billing. This means that if a woman is out of her home province or territory and in need of an abortion, she may have to pay for the procedure herself, with no chance of being reimbursed.

PARENTAL CONSENT:
Some abortion providers will require the approval of one or more parents prior to their minor child undergoing a medical procedure like abortion.

OUT/HYPHEN.CAP OF PROVINCE/RECIPROCAL BILLING:
Reciprocal billing is not readily available from one source. Canadians for Choice has compiled this province- and territory-specific information in order to educate and empower people to exercise their reproductive rights. For more detailed information about abortion services in your area, please call our toll-free Information and Referral Line: 1-888-642-2725.

HOW TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT:
It is important to know whether the abortion provider requires a referral or not. If the provider requires a referral, a woman can receive a referral from her family doctor, a walk-in clinic, or a sexual health centre. Canadians for Choice also has a list of clinics throughout Canada that provide referrals. Once a woman has obtained a referral, she will have to contact the provider to set up an appointment. If the provider does not require a doctor's referral, the woman can contact the provider to set up an appointment and gather any other required documentation or test results.

INTRODUCTION:
The goal of this leaflet is to provide an overview of abortion services throughout Canada that can be used as a quick reference tool to ascertain the difference in barriers to abortion services and provincial/territorial differences in the delivery of services. This information is not readily available from one source. Canadians for Choice has compiled this province- and territory-specific information in order to educate and empower people to exercise their reproductive rights. For more detailed information about abortion services in your area, please call our toll-free Information and Referral Line: 1-888-642-2725.

Canadians for Choice is a pro-choice, non-profit charitable organisation dedicated to ensuring reproductive choice for all Canadians. As Canadians for Choice, we envision a world where individuals—regardless of age, ability, race, gender, sexual orientation, place of residence, or socio-economic and other status have access to the information, resources and services required to make and exercise informed choices on all aspects of their sexual and reproductive health and rights. For this reason, we work to ensure the general public, policy-makers and health and education practitioners are well educated and informed about all aspects of sexual and reproductive health and rights. We also aim to enhance the quality and comprehensiveness of research and information on current and emerging sexual and reproductive health issues.
### ACCESS AT A GLANCE: ABORTION SERVICES IN CANADA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Total # of Providers</th>
<th>Hospitals</th>
<th>Clinics</th>
<th>Private Providers</th>
<th>Crisis Pregnancy Centres</th>
<th># of Medical</th>
<th># of Surgical</th>
<th>Parental Consent?</th>
<th>Referral Required Hospital?</th>
<th>Referral Required Clinic?</th>
<th>Bubble Zone</th>
<th>Anesthetic Required?</th>
<th>Gestational Limit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NU</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>determined by dr.</td>
<td>preferred</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>general</td>
<td>13 weeks</td>
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<td>determined by dr.</td>
<td>self referral</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>general</td>
<td>12 weeks</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>no</td>
<td>dr / self referral</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>general + local</td>
<td>12-14 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>BC</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>no</td>
<td>dr referral</td>
<td>self referral</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>g-hosp., l-clin., w/ injunction</td>
<td>13-21 weeks + 6 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>&lt; 18*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>self referral</td>
<td>self referral</td>
<td>2 clinics w/ injunction</td>
<td>I-hosp., l-clin., w/ injunction</td>
<td>12-19 weeks + 6 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SK</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt; 16</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>dr / self referral</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>general</td>
<td>13 weeks + 6 days</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MB</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt; 16*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>dr referral</td>
<td>self referral</td>
<td>2 clinics w/ injunction</td>
<td>g-hosp., l-clin., w/ injunction</td>
<td>12-19 weeks + 6 days</td>
<td></td>
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<td>ON</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>83</td>
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<td>g-hosp., l-clin., w/ injunction</td>
<td>23 weeks + 6 days</td>
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<td>self referral</td>
<td>3 clinics w/ injunction</td>
<td>g-hosp., l-clin., w/ injunction</td>
<td>22 weeks</td>
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<tr>
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<td>dr referral</td>
<td>dr referral</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>not reported</td>
<td>10-16 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt; 12</td>
<td>depends</td>
<td>depends</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>g-hosp., l-clin., w/ injunction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt; 12-15*</td>
<td>dr referral</td>
<td>self referral</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>g-hosp., l-clin., w/ injunction</td>
<td>12-15 weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Notes
- "< 18*" indicates the gestational limit for abortion is < 18 weeks.
- "< 16*" indicates the gestational limit for abortion is < 16 weeks.
- "< 12" indicates the gestational limit for abortion is < 12 weeks.
- "< 12-15*" indicates the gestational limit for abortion is < 12-15 weeks.
- "depends" indicates the gestational limit depends on the provider.
- "no" indicates that parental consent is not required.
- "preferred" indicates that the preferred method is abortion.
- "self referral" indicates that patients can self-refer.
- "dr referral" indicates that patients must be referred by a doctor.
- "required" indicates that a referral is required.
- "recommended" indicates that a referral is recommended.
- "n/a" indicates that information is not available.