MINISTRY OF HEALTH
MANATŪ HAUORA

133 Molesworth Street
PO Box 5013
Wellington 6140
New Zealand
T+64 4 496 2000

23 Oct 2026

Important information for midwives about provision of early medical abortion.

Ensure access to abortion care

If you conscientiously object to abortion, you are legally required to, at the earliest opportunity, ensure the client knows how to contact the closest provider of abortion services themselves.

Midwives providing early medical abortion care have professional and legal responsibilities

The Midwifery Council has established clear safeguards and expectations for midwives providing abortion care. This includes the completion of approved education prior to providing early medical abortion services and adherence to competency requirements declared when applying for an annual APC. The Council's Statement on Midwifery Led Abortion outlines these expectations and education prerequisites before a midwife can provide EMA care.

The statement specifically endorses the New Zealand College of Sexual and Reproductive Health abortion education package as the minimum requirement for registered midwives providing EMA service Abortion (Sections 1 and 2)

The Midwifery Council also has the expectation that the midwife would have already completed the online course Introduction to the Abortion Legislation and Midwifery Roles and Responsibilities before commencing any specific EMA education packages.

It is recommended that midwives providing EMA services consider joining a peer network such as Abortion Providers Group Aotearoa New Zealand Abortion Providers Group Aotearoa New Zealand (APGANZ) | APGANZ

There is a statutory obligation to notify the Ministry of Health within one month of providing an abortion, as well as provide an annual report

You can find information about the regulations and process for notification here:

Abortion Information for Health Professionals Ministry of Health NZ

You can use this link to provide notifications:

Notification Of Abortion

Yours sincerely



Heather Muriwai
Chief Maternity Officer
Clinical Science and Advisory Unit
Strategy and Policy | Te Pou Rautaki