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Subject: Universal coverage for Mifegymiso starting July 24, 2017	Reference: <i>Women's Choice Program</i>	

To: All physicians

Effective July 24, 2017, Alberta Health, under the Women's Choice Program will be providing coverage for Mifegymiso through licensed pharmacies in Alberta.

Eligibility

Any person who meets all of the following Eligibility Criteria is entitled to Mifegymiso as a Drug Benefit:

- a. The person must reside in Alberta; and
- b. The person is the subject of a prescription written by a Physician for the purpose of providing Mifegymiso.

Prescribing

Mifegymiso (DIN 00002444038) is a combination mifepristone and misoprostol drug product indicated for medical termination of a developing intrauterine pregnancy with a gestational age of up to 49 days, as confirmed by ultrasound. Given the time sensitive nature of Mifegymiso use, the urgency of the need for ultrasound should be indicated when the ultrasound requisition is prepared.

Mifegymiso is a drug with serious potential risks requiring physician oversight; Health Canada currently specifies physician engagement in Mifegymiso use in order to help manage the risks associated with the drug. The need for medical supervision is based on strong evidence for good health and safety outcomes.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta published its position on Mifegymiso in its June 5, 2017 online newsletter at <http://www.cpsa.ca/trevors-take-on-leaving-the-college/>. This position is aligned with the guidance from the Alberta College of Pharmacists (available at <https://pharmacists.ab.ca/guidelines-dispensing-mifegymiso>), specifying that dispensing pharmacists must dispense in the manner (i.e. to the person subject of the prescription or to the prescribing physician) detailed by the prescribing physician on the prescription.

Contact	Pharmaceutical and Health Benefits Branch	Approved by:	Chad Mitchell
Telephone	Edmonton 780-427-2653 Toll free 310-0000	Position:	Executive Director, Pharmaceutical and Health Benefits Branch
Fax:	780-422-3646		

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Information on the prescribing of Mifegymiso is available through the Health Canada Health Product Risk Communication for Mifegymiso, accessible at <http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2017/63330a-eng.php>.

Health Canada advises that all prescribing physicians should complete an Education Program developed by the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) in collaboration with the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) and the Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA). The course is accessible at <https://sogc.org/online-courses/courses.html>.

Supports and resources for physicians and other professionals who facilitate access to Mifegymiso are available through the Canadian Abortion Providers Support (CAPS) at https://www.caps-cpca.ubc.ca/index.php/Main_Page.