



VOLUNTARY TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY

for foreigners in Italy



Projet réalisé avec le support technique et financier du Ministère de la Santé – CCM.

Nous remercions le Centre SAMIFO de l'ASL Roma 1 pour les traductions des brochures en arabe, chinois, français, hindi, anglais et espagnol. Nous remercions ARCI Roma pour la traduction en roumain.

This pamphlet is designed to help you learn about the path to carrying out a voluntary termination of pregnancy (IVG) in Italy. By reading it you will be able to learn about the procedures available and the services you can contact to perform it.



If you are pregnant and do not wish to carry the pregnancy to term, you can go to a public health facility. Only you can assess your situation request an IVG. **Among the health services available to you is the counseling centerfamily, accessible without a doctor's prescription.**



Here you will find a list of all family counseling centers in Italy, divided by region and province

Counseling services are free of charge even if you do not have a permit to residence or the right to national health care. If you do not have health care health care, the counseling center workers will explain how to get it. If you do not speak Italian, the consultorio can activate a mediation/translation service by telephone or in-person.

All health care providers have a duty of **confidentiality** and do not can disclose to anyone the information you share with them.

The stages of the IVG pathway

In Italy, the legal deadline for IVG is the third month, or 12 weeks and 6 days or 90 days counting from the first day of the last menstruation. **Beyond the 90th day, IVG is possible only under special circumstances**, such as malformations or serious pathologies of the fetus or conditions that put the fetus at serious risk the woman's health or life.

The termination of pregnancy within 90 days

STEP 1. Issuing the document for IVG

If you want to terminate your pregnancy, you can go to the counseling center or to your doctor general practitioner or any other trusted doctor. The doctor will accept your request, inform you about your rights and possible alternatives to IVG. At end of the interview, he will draw up a document attesting to your request, which you you will have to sign. If the doctor finds no urgent conditions, you will have to wait 7 days (reflection period) before you can access the procedure. If the doctor assesses that there are conditions that make the procedure urgent, he or she will issue a **certificate of urgency** with which you can present yourself at the hospital facilities or contracted to terminate the pregnancy without the 7-day wait.

If you are a minor, you need the consent of your parents/guardians, who will sign with you on the IVG document. If your parents refuse permission, or if you feel you cannot involve them, the counseling center staff will arrange to forward the request for authorization to the juvenile court, which must respond within 5 days.

- You do not need the consent of your husband/partner for the issuance of the document for IVG.
- Conscientious objector health care personnel cannot refuse to issue the document/certificate.
- It is not necessary to perform an ultrasound for issuance of the document for IVG.



STEP 2. Booking the procedure

You can book the IVG directly with inpatient or outpatient services that offer the surgical and/or pharmacological procedure. Some counseling centers can book the procedure, either pharmacological or surgical, directly at the hospital of reference. If the counseling center does not make the reservation directly, it should still provide you with a list of facilities offering IVG service, to which you can to which you can refer yourself. In some regions the pharmacological procedure can also be carried out in counseling centers, without hospitalization.

- To book the procedure, you will need the document/certificate for IVG, health card and a valid ID.
- The following is not necessary for booking the procedure a referral from the general practitioner.



STEP 3. First visit

During the first appointment at the facility where the IVG will be performed, an performed **an ultrasound scan**, usually with a vaginal probe, to date the pregnancy and make sure it is in utero. The doctor will then fill out the medical record, listing all the information about your health. At the end of the consultation, you can ask about discuss contraceptive options.

No one can force you to listen to or see the heart of the embryo. If this happens, you can report it. Instead, it is your right to see the ultrasound if you request it.



STEP 4. The choice of procedure

L'IVG can be performed by a pharmacological or surgical procedure. The pharmacological procedure can be performed by the ninth week, while the surgical procedure can be performed up to 12 weeks and 6 days, although although in many centers it is preferred not to be performed before the seventh week. **If there are no specific medical contraindications, you will choose with your doctor the procedure that is best for you.**

1. Pharmacological (or medical) procedure. It involves the administration of two drugs, approximately 48 hours apart. The drugs cause the expulsion of the pregnancy, similar to what occurs in abortion spontaneous abortion. The first drug is administered in counseling or in the hospital; the second drug can be taken in the counseling center, or in the hospital, with a 3–4-hour hospitalization. In some regions it is possible to take the second medication at home. To verify that the pregnancy is terminated it is necessary to have a checkup after two weeks.

Health care personnel must offer/prescribe painkillers from taken as needed.



2. Surgical procedure. It consists of dilation of the cervix and aspiration of the pregnancy. Before the surgery, the following may be required blood tests and electrocardiogram. The surgery is performed in day hospital, and it is generally possible to go home about two hours after the surgery. After the surgery is completed, it is possible to insert a IUD or a subcutaneous implant for contraception.

The termination of pregnancy after 90 days

Beyond the 90th day of pregnancy, that is, from the 13th week, IVG is permissible only if your health or life is in serious danger, or if abnormalities or detected abnormalities or fetal pathologies, which may have a serious repercussion on your health.

If you underwent an investigation for prenatal diagnosis of fetal pathology or if the ultrasound examination showed a fetal malformation, the center that performed the the investigation is required to give you directions on the facilities to which you should go for IVG. If you do not receive this information, you can contact the counseling center, which will provide you with all the necessary information.

Second trimester IVGs can be performed with a proceduresurgical procedure by the 14th to 16th week, or by a pharmacological procedure. The physician at the center where the procedure will be performed may decide to require further investigations.

Here you can find more information, in different languages, about contraception, health services and your rights



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