

Pharmacist Direct Dispensing of Mifepristone for Medication Abortion in Canada: A Survey of Community Pharmacists. Enav Z. Zusman PharmD; Sarah Munro PhD; Wendy V Norman MD, MHSc; Judith A. Soon RPh, PhD. Correspondence: wendy.norman@ubc.ca

## Appendix 2: Thematic Presentation of Qualitative Analysis

Theme	Category and Quotes	Sex	Age	Urban/rural	Pharmacy manager:	Years practicing as community pharmacist:	Willing to dispense (%)
<b>Supporting the community through abortion access (n=244)</b>	<p><b>Gaining Knowledge:</b></p> <p><i>"I feel as if this is going to be something that will come up in my practice, and I would like to be ahead of it. Whether we dispense it or not, I would like to have the knowledge to answer any questions that arise about it. Being a pharmacist, we are often people's first step in obtaining medical care because of our availability and I think medical abortion may even see us be called upon even more as a primary source of info, due to the stigma around abortion and talking about it".</i></p> <p><i>"Had very little knowledge of the product and protocols for medical abortion, and due to new laws increasing our ability to provide this service wanted to develop a better understanding in this area".</i></p> <p><b>Increasing accessibility and supporting rural residents:</b></p> <p><i>"I believe it is important, especially in small rural community settings, that women have a ready, non-</i></p>	<p>Male: 75 (30.9%) Female: 168(69.1%)</p>	40.54 (11.00)	<p>Urban: 116 (47.5%) Rural: 117 (47.9%) Did not specify: 11 (4.5%)</p>	69 (28.3%)	14.2(11.1)	95.9

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<p><i>judgmental access to medical abortion regimens of their choice. Pharmacists in a community setting can provide support for a patient by providing counselling regarding seeking an abortion; at the time of medical abortion medication dispensing and follow-up post self-administration.</i></p> <p><i>Pharmacists are considered to be a knowledgeable and accessible information source for the public in my experience and are often the most readily accessible and/or approachable due to the hours of service of community pharmacies”.</i></p> <p><i>“I live and practice in a remote community in Northern Alberta. The next closest city that provides surgical abortion is over 2 hours away and there are few practitioners that offer it there. I want to be able to provide timely access to medical abortions and educate my patients on all of their options. I also educate our local physicians on their options”.</i></p> <p><b>Providing Patient Care:</b>  <i>“It is vital that we offer a full service pharmacy where our patients can get all current services. Medical abortion offers a safer alternative to surgical option and the off indication usage of methotrexate and misoprostol. Being informed</i></p>						
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	<p><i>and able to dispense this new initiative is important to make it available to my patients”.</i></p> <p><i>“I enjoy counselling patients on their medications including medications for MA. I feel that following the company's guidelines we can ask the right questions of the patient, give advice on medications to use for nausea, pain etc, &amp; reinforce with the patients signs/symptoms that they should be concerned with &amp; how to react. I think that we can answer any questions that they may have where they want a second opinion &amp; reinforce the importance of some of the steps that the physician may want use as ultrasound, BHCG, removal of IUD etc”.</i></p> <p><b>Supporting Other Healthcare Professionals:</b></p> <p><i>“I want to be able to provide timely access to medical abortions and educate my patients on all of their options. I also educate our local physicians on their options”.</i></p> <p><i>“The community pharmacy in which I practice is located just steps away from our local community health center. One of our local doctors is taking the training to prescribe Mifegymiso and has made arrangements for ultrasounds to be performed at the health</i></p>						
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	<i>center. Once assessment and ultrasound are complete women will need to be able to readily access their medication. Women's Health issues are important to me and with the health center just a stones throw away from my store, getting certified was essential in ensuring women have access to their prescribed medication".</i>						
<b>Meeting consumer demand through new business (n=93)</b>	<p><b>Financial Opportunity:</b>  <i>"It is a new line of business and opportunity to help women get the care they require".</i></p> <p><i>"It is unlikely that other pharmacies in the area would provide that service. It would be unique to our practice".</i></p> <p><b>Increased Demand:</b>  <i>"I have seen in my practice customers seeking help in this matter. I thought of getting training would help me be more beneficial to the community I work for. And as drug is covered in Alberta would help customers to get it".</i></p> <p><i>"I would like to ensure that I am able to offer all services that are required for my patients. I know that in my area surgical abortion has only recently become available and there is a lot of resistance in the area to abortion, even though there is a demand. I would like to ensure that I can help meet that demand".</i></p>	<p>Male: 36 (38.71%)  Female: 57 (61.29%)</p>	39.8 (10.5)	<p>Urban: 38 (40.8%)  Rural: 52 (55.9%)  Did not specify: 3 (3.2%)</p>	32 (34.41%)	13.5 (11.1)	94.6%

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<p><b>Supporting patients' choices and options (n=89)</b></p>	<p>Providing Patients with Options:  <i>"I support a woman's right to make informed decisions regarding their pregnancy. By offering the mifepristone therapy, I am helping remove barriers to access and stigmas in therapy. It may not be the option all women select but I want it to be available and offered safely for those who would seek this intervention".</i></p> <p><i>"I strongly believe women need choices and access to care. I have been involved recently in learning about fertility care and was surprised how little i [sic] knew about this very common issue. I would like to offer more care in this area. Medical abortion, being the opposite, felt like the right balance to round off my learning in this area of women's redproduction [sic]. In the past i [sic] have learned about adoption issues and foster care. Again, this combined experience feels like I am looking at an issue from different perspectives. It helps me balance my views and understanding".</i></p> <p>Seeing Medical Abortion as a Part of Patient's Reproductive Health:  <i>"I think medical abortion is a necessary part of women's reproductive health. If we are</i></p>	<p>Male: 18 (20.2%)  Female: 71 (79.8%)</p>	<p>41.2 (10.1)</p>	<p>Urban: 45 (50.6%)  Rural: 44 (49.4%)</p>	<p>33 (37.1%)</p>	<p>14.3 (10.2)</p>	<p>100</p>
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	<i>able to provide Plan B, we should be able to provide this as well, given that it is more effective than prior existing medical abortion regimens.”</i>						
<b>Expanding pharmacists' scope of practice (n=48)</b>	<p>Expanding the pharmacist's role: <i>I would like to stay current and believe Mifegymiso will become one of the most commonly used medical abortion options in Canada. As the designated manager of my store, I find it important to lead by example and stay up to date on expanded scope of practice and new clinical services in order to lead by example”.</i></p> <p><i>“I feel that it is important that pharmacists embrace new therapeutic challenges and offer medications to the public so that comprehensive public access is maintained”.</i></p> <p><i>“With the expanding roles of Pharmacists to give medical cares [sic] and with the coming of new medications I would like to give this special service to my patients when needed”.</i></p>	<p>Male: 26 (54.17%)            Female: 21 (43.75%)            Did not specify: 1 (2.08%)</p>	39.56 (11.87)	<p>Urban: 34 (70.83%)            Rural: 12 (25%)            Did not specify: 2 (4.16%)</p>	<6	13.15 (10.67)	100