

How to Choose a Quality Abortion Provider

A quality abortion provider better serves both your physical and emotional health. The decision to choose abortion is often a difficult choice. Once that decision is made however, you must also choose which abortion provider you will entrust with your care. There may be a number of abortion providers in your area. So, choosing a provider may involve more than a single phone call. How do you choose a quality abortion provider who will offer you the best care, ensure comfort, and treat you with the dignity and respect you deserve?

Two resources you can use to find an abortion provider in the Philadelphia area can be found by linking to [The Abortion Clinic Directory](#) and [Abortion.com](#). We recommend that you verify the quality of your abortion provider by contacting [CHOICE](#).

Often your first contact with an abortion provider is by phone. As you are talking to the abortion provider, be sure to listen for the following:

- You are treated kindly and patiently.
- Information regarding abortion services is being given clearly and willingly.
- The telephone counselor is well informed and answers your questions easily.

Being on the phone gives you an opportunity to ask a great many questions. Listed below are some of the many questions women often ask:

General questions to consider asking an abortion provider in Philadelphia:

1. How long will the abortion take? How long will I be in the facility?
2. How long will I be in the facility?
3. What kind of procedure will be performed? Ask them to describe it.
4. Is there an option for one-day second trimester abortion?
5. Who will be in the room during the procedure? Can my partner or friend be with me?
6. What qualifications does the doctor have? How long has he or she been performing abortions?
7. What are the qualifications of the staff on my medical team?
8. What are the anesthesia options? Who provides anesthesia and what are his or her qualifications?
9. Will an ultrasound be done before the abortion to confirm the length of pregnancy? What are the qualifications of the person performing the ultrasound?
10. Where do patients recover after surgery and for how long generally?
11. For non-surgical abortion, is the method used the FDA approved method (Mifeprex with Misoprostol) or a substitute?
12. Is there a 24-hour phone number for emergencies? What happens if there is an emergency during my procedure? How often does that occur?
13. What are the complications that can occur? How often do patients from this facility experience complications?
14. When was the last inspection? Does the clinic have a license to operate and perform abortions?



What are the fees?

1. Does the fee quoted cover all the costs? If their fee seems too low or too high, ask more questions about what is included and why it is so different than other clinics' fees.
2. What methods of payment are accepted? Will my insurance be accepted?
3. Do they offer a post-surgery check up visit? Is there a charge?
4. Are there additional charges for any of the lab tests?
5. Is ultrasound routinely performed? Is there an extra charge?
6. What are the pain management options? Do you feel pressured into choosing one pain relief option over another? Are there extra fees for sedation?
7. Are medications included in the fee? Is there an on-site pharmacy to fill take-home prescriptions?

Laboratory Tests

1. What lab tests will be done the day of my abortion?
2. Will I know my lab results before my abortion surgery?
3. If my blood type is RH negative, do they offer a Rhogam injection? What is the cost?
4. Can I get a PAP test or a test for Sexually Transmitted Infections at the same time? What is the cost?

Laboratory tests that are required to be performed before an abortion in Pennsylvania include a urinalysis and a blood sample to check your hemoglobin and your RH factor.

Is Counseling Provided?

1. Will I speak privately with someone?
2. Is there someone to talk to if I am not sure of my decision?
3. Does the clinic offer counseling after my abortion?
4. Do they offer counseling for those who are with me?

Quality abortion providers have health educators or counselors available who can answer questions or address concerns about all pregnancy options - parenthood, adoption and abortion. Each woman, even one who is very certain about her abortion decision, should have an opportunity to meet with a health counselor to discuss feelings and concerns. The counseling staff is there to support you and your loved ones who are with you in this experience.

Consider getting a few opinions from trusted individuals about the different abortion providers in your area, then call them to get an impression of their staff and services. Ask trusted friends and family, or your doctor, a local hospital or a family planning or social service agency recommendations. If it is possible, visit the clinic, or at least visit their web page and read it thoroughly. Ask what organizations the clinic is a member of. The [Abortion Care Network](#) is one and another is the [National Abortion Federation](#) (NAF). NAF members have created high quality standards for abortion providers to follow.

Remember, you are a good woman and you deserve good health care.

*Every day, good women choose abortion.
Every day, we care for their bodies and hearts.
When you come here, bring only love.*

