

Note: Patients who undergo medical initiation for termination of pregnancy may go home until contractions begin.

6.4 Palliative Care –

For terminations after 21 weeks and zero (0) days there must be careful consideration and documentation concerning a “do not resuscitate” order in anticipation of a possible live birth. Comfort measures and palliative care should be provided. In some circumstances, in order to reduce suffering where intervention is necessary to terminate the pregnancy after 21 weeks and zero (0) days, patient and the most responsible health practitioner may consider the option of induced fetal cardiac arrest prior to initiating the termination procedures.

6.5 Consider Post-mortem Examination –

Strong consideration must be given to obtaining consent for a post-mortem examination (including examination of the placenta) in all cases of termination of pregnancy after 21 weeks and zero (0) days involving fetal anomaly or genetic disorder, in order to advance understanding of the disorder and to corroborate appropriate decision-making. Nevertheless, there must be careful recognition of important personal, cultural, and religious differences and sensitivities about this issue.

7. Follow up

- 7.1 Provision must be made for effective medical follow up, including after-hours care, of patients following termination of pregnancy.
- 7.2 Bereavement support and follow up must be offered to the patient and her partner/family.
- 7.3 Follow up must incorporate outcome-based quality assurance review.

8. Request Declined

- 8.1 For a patient whose request for termination of pregnancy has, for whatever reason, been declined, there is a requirement for full disclosure of the options available outside of Alberta.

DEFINITIONS

Health care professional means an individual who is a member of a regulated health discipline, as defined by the *Health Disciplines Act* (Alberta) or the *Health Professions Act* (Alberta), and who practises within scope and role.

Medical termination of pregnancy means termination of pregnancy is achieved through the use of oral, vaginal, or intravenous medications to initiate uterine activity/labour and vaginal delivery, under the guidance or direction of a physician.