How does Planned Parenthood do an abortion by webcam?

A woman goes to a Planned Parenthood where there is no doctor physically present. She consults a doctor only by webcam.

The doctor remotely activates a drawer that opens and provides the woman with two bottles of abortion pill drugs. The first pills, which kill the baby in the womb, are taken by the woman in front of the webcam. She takes the other pills home to take later to expel the baby.

Two major problems with webcam abortions:
1) No qualified medical personnel to examine the woman and rule out life-threatening risks such as an ectopic pregnancy.
2) No follow-up care for complications. If the abortion is incomplete and a woman at Planned Parenthood in Creston needs a follow-up surgical abortion, where does she go? Planned Parenthood has never answered this.

Myths about Planned Parenthood’s webcam abortions

Myth #1: Medication abortions are “less intrusive”

Medication abortions are less messy for Planned Parenthood and more traumatizing for women, because the women are forced to deal with the hemorrhaging and the dead baby at home – alone. Medication abortions take longer and are bloodier than a surgical abortion. PPH’s medication abortions are not less intrusive, they are more abusive.

Myth #2: It’s all about access for women in rural Iowa

If webcam abortions are to help women in rural Iowa, why does PPH offer webcam abortions in their Des Moines area locations like Urbandale and the Susan Knapp Planned Parenthood near Drake University?

It’s about access alright... access to cash. Webcam abortions are more profitable for PPH. There is less overhead expense because the woman aborts at home, where she will have to deal with the blood and the body of the baby on her own.

PPH also uses a cheaper combination of the medication abortion drugs, not recommended by the FDA (see Medication Abortion: How it Works on Page 2). These medication abortion pills cost Planned Parenthood around $94, but PPH’s website prices medication abortion at $300-800.

Continued on Page 2...

Complications from Medication Abortions

Deadly complications from medication abortions can be easily overlooked.

At least 11 women have died after a medication abortion, including five women in the United States.

The problem with diagnosing serious problems related to medication abortions is many adverse effects mask themselves as typical side-effects from a medication abortion.

Women who have died after a medication abortion died from:
- Clostridium sordelli: a bacterial infection like toxic shock
- Hemorrhaging to death
- Ruptured ectopic pregnancy
- Massive heart attack

Other complications:
- Excessive Bleeding
- Chest Pain
- Severe Cramping
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- High Fever

The above symptoms might seem typical for a medication abortion. Pelvic exams or ultrasounds results can be inconclusive. Further investigation of these symptoms could save women’s lives.

Medication abortion complications at PP in Ohio

In August 2013, the Ohio Board of Medicine reported 42 reports of complications from medication abortions in 18 months, including 35 incomplete abortions from just two Planned Parenthoods. The women with incomplete abortions had to endure follow-up surgical abortions to finish the job.

Here is a link to the OBOM report:
Medication Abortion: How it Works

A medication abortion, also known as a chemical abortion, abortion pill or RU-486, is not a single pill, but actually a two-step process involving multiple doses of the two drugs.

1) Mifepristone
—also known as RU-486 or by its marketing name, "Mifeprex." These drugs block the action of progesterone, the natural hormone vital to maintaining the rich nutrient lining of the uterus. The developing baby starves as the nutrient lining disintegrates.

2) Misoprostol
—an artificial prostaglandin. These drugs, taken a few days after the mifepristone, initiate uterine contractions and cause the baby to be expelled. Planned Parenthood violates FDA protocol on medication abortions by using a cheaper regimen (combination of mifepristone and misoprostol) not recommended by the FDA. The cheaper regimen is more profitable for Planned Parenthood, but more dangerous for women.

Here is the difference:

FDA Protocol for Medication Abortions:
The FDA approved Mifeprex regimen for a medical abortion through 49 days of pregnancy involves three separate doctor’s office visits:

Day One:
Mifepristone/Mifeprex Administration: 3 tablets of 200 mg of Mifepristone orally at once.

Day Three:
Misoprostol Administration: 2 tablets of 200 mcg of misoprostol orally at once.

Day Fourteen:
Post-Treatment: The patient must return to confirm that a complete termination has occurred. If not, surgical termination is recommended to manage medical abortion treatment failures.

How Planned Parenthood of the Heartland violates FDA Protocol

- PPH uses the Mifeprex regimen on women up to 63 days into a pregnancy, two weeks beyond the FDA recommendation.
- PPH cuts the Mifepristone pills from 3 to 1 and ups the misoprostol pills (Mifepristone is about $90 a pill and misoprostol is about $1 a pill.) Reducing Mifepristone and increasing misoprostol increases Planned Parenthood’s profits.
- PPH eliminates an office visit by making the women take the misoprostol at home. Again, less overhead and more profits for PPH.

For more information, visit: www.iowaRTL.org

Get the Facts is prepared by Iowa Right to Life, 1500 Illinois Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50314, www.iowaRTL.org
Contact us via Email: iowa@iowaRTL.org Phone: 877.595.9406 Twitter: @iowaRTL Facebook: Iowa Right to Life
Iowans don’t want webcam abortions

Over 30,000 Iowans signed Iowa Right to Life’s petition against webcam abortions, including abortion advocates, who couldn’t stand the thought of sending a woman home to abort by herself, with no examination by a doctor and no follow-up emergency care.

U of Iowa Survey: Iowans Support Ban on Telemedicine Abortions

A 2013 poll by the University of Iowa Political Science department revealed most Iowans support the Iowa State Board of Medicine’s October 2013 decision to ban telemedicine abortions.

66.3 percent overall support ban
84.8 percent of Republicans support ban
52.9 percent of Democrats support ban
64.2 percent of Independents support ban

The Hawkeye Poll, conducted November 10–17, 2013 surveyed more than 1,000 Iowans, age 18 and over on issues ranging from health care to gun control.

Read the poll results here: http://now.uiowa.edu/2013/11/hawkeye-surveys-iowans-range-current-issues

Important terms to understand

Medication abortions are also called Chemical abortions and RU 486. A misconception is that it is just two pills — but it’s actually a cocktail of pills (see How It Works on Page 2)

Surgical abortions are referred to as In-clinic abortions by Planned Parenthood.

Telemedicine abortions are medication abortions by a webcam. PPH claims their cameras are closed-circuit TV.
Testimonies: What is it like to have a medication abortion?

Excerpt from blog by Abby Johnson, former Planned Parenthood manager, describing her own medication abortion: (WARNING: Graphic)

“...I knew I had to get up and wash the blood off of me. I stood up slowly and straightened out my body. As soon as I was completely upright, I felt a pain worse than any other I had experienced. I began to sweat again and felt faint. I grabbed on to the side of the shower wall to steady myself.

“Then I felt a release...and a splash in the water that was draining beneath me. A blood clot the size of a lemon had fallen into my bath water. Was that my baby? I knew this huge clot was not going to go down the drain, so I reached down to pick it up. I was able to grasp the large clot with both hands and move it to the toilet.

“I stood in the warm shower for a few minutes...feeling a little relief from the cramping. Then came the excruciating pain again. I jumped out of the shower and sat on the toilet. Another lemon sized blood clot. Then another. And another. I thought I was dying. This couldn’t be normal. Planned Parenthood didn’t ever tell me this could happen...” (To read the full post, visit www.abbyjohnson.org, blog post, October 23, 2012.)

Even pro-abortion say medication abortions are a painful mess

““This has turned into a marathon I hadn’t expected! Takes longer than I thought it would...””

Read the testimony of Angie Jackson, a single mom from Tampa, FL, who gave a play-by-play of her medication abortion on Twitter. (Featured in the IRTL News, September 2010, page 5 at www.iowaRTL.org)

13 states have banned webcam abortions

13 states have passed laws banning the practice of webcam abortions: Alabama, Arizona, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee and Wisconsin.

It’s time for Iowa to ban webcam abortions, too.