

Early Medical Abortion at Home

Can we predict which women choose this method?

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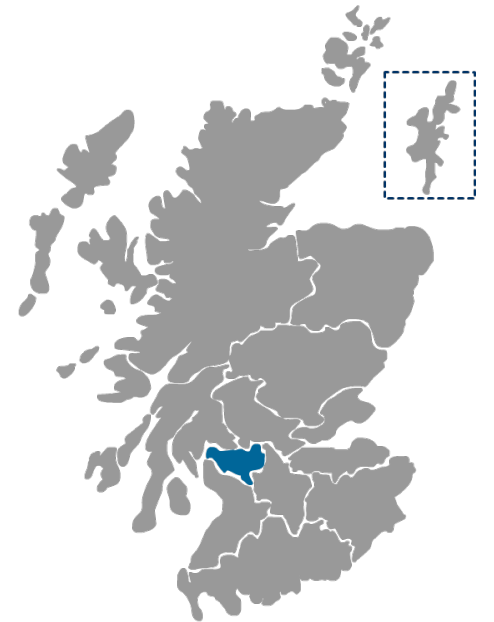
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Sandyford Sexual Health Service

Glasgow, UK

Abortion Services in Scotland

- Abortion services based within NHS hospital or community settings
- 12,212 abortions in 2017¹ (11.8 /1000 women age 15-44)
 - More in women aged 20-24 (28.6%) than other age groups
- Majority performed before 9 weeks gestation (72%)
- 84% of all abortions are by medical methods
 - 90% of all under 9 weeks gestation are medical abortion
- NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (GGC)
 - 22% of all abortions in Scotland in 2017 (11.4 / 1000 women)
 - 88% of all abortions by medical methods



Early Medical Abortion at Home (EMAH)

- Previously all women required to attend a hospital setting
- October 2017 – Scottish Government approved a patient's home address as a place where treatment could be carried out
 - Pregnant women attends a clinic where she is prescribed mifepristone and misoprostol, takes mifepristone in clinic and wishes to carry out the treatment at home
 - Women must be eligible
 - Will then be prescribed and discharged with misoprostol to self-administer at home (24-48 hours later)

EMAH in NHS GGC

- TOPAR service at Sandyford
- Began offering EMAH to eligible women from 3rd April 2018
 - 16 years or over / 9 weeks gestation or less / adult available to be at home with them / no language problems / no medical contra-indications
- Under 9 weeks gestation options;
 - EMAH (Only available Mon-Fri during introduction of service)
 - Medical abortion in hospital (available Mon-Fri)
 - Surgical abortion under general anaesthetic (from 7+weeks)

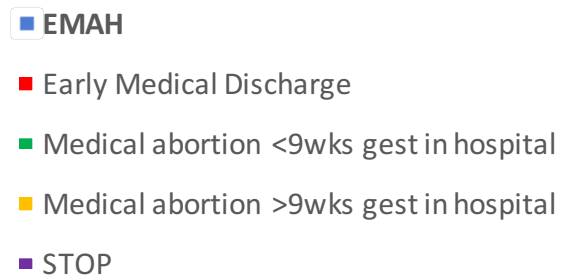
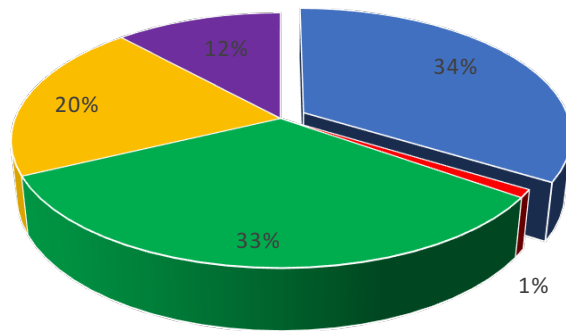


Aim and Methods

- To determine the proportion of women who choose EMAH, and identify any predictive characteristics for choosing this method
- Prospective review of all women attending April – June 2018
 - 9 weeks gestation or less
 - Choosing a medical method
- Identified women not eligible for EMAH
- Comparative analysis of the demographics of women who had EMAH and eligible women who chose a medical abortion in hospital

Method Chosen

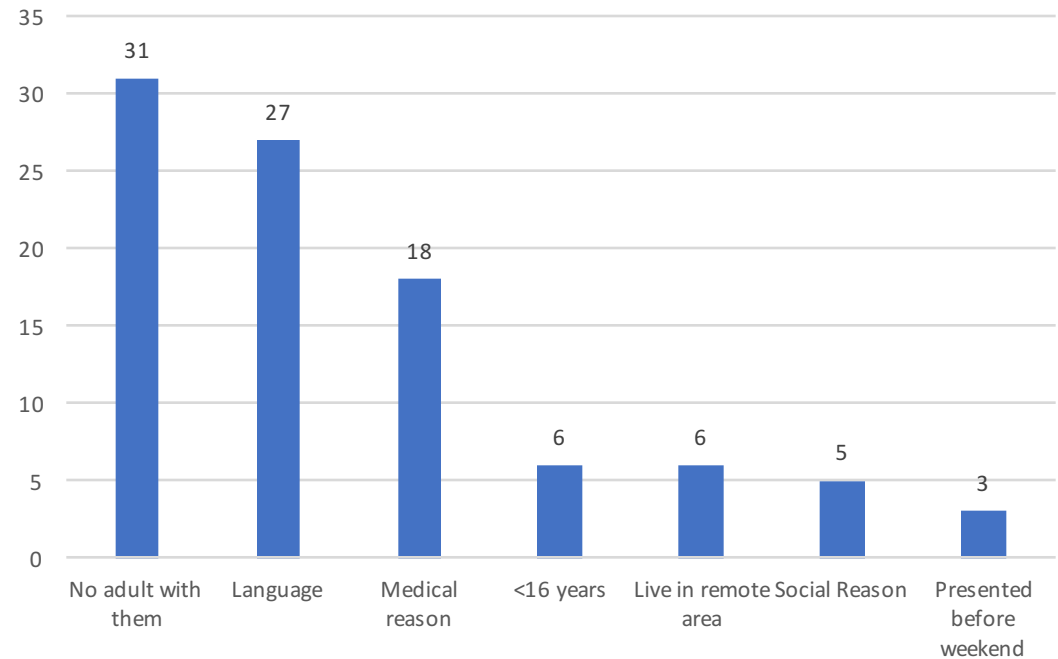
Method of Abortion



Medical abortion <9 weeks in hospital (n=261)

- Patient preference (n=165 (63%))
- Not eligible for EMAH (n=96 (34%))

Reason not eligible for EMAH



Comparison of women choosing EMAH vs. In hospital medical abortion <9 weeks

	EMAH (N=266)	In hospital medical abortion (N=165)	p value
Age range (yrs.)	16-44	16-42	
Mean age (yrs.)	28	25	
Mean gestation (days)	48	51	
Previously given birth (N (%))	153 (57%)	61 (37%)	0.0001
Previous medical abortion (N(%))	81 (30%)	31 (19%)	0.0093
SIMD ¹ 1&2 (N(%))	165 (62%)	95 (57%)	

Limitations

- Small numbers of women over first 3 months
- Can't account for variation in consultation between different healthcare professionals
- Service limited to weekdays may have affected women's choice
- No information of level of education

Conclusions

- A third of all women assessed for abortion proceeded to EMAH
- 62% of all women eligible for EMAH choose this method
- Women are more likely to opt for EMAH if previously given birth or previous medical abortion
- More women are likely to choose this option with an anticipated move to provide a 7 day EMAH service

Thank you

Questions?