

A. MTP ACT 1971 AMENDED IN 2002 – CERTAIN GUIDELINES

- MTP services are to be provided in safe and hygienic manner and abortion services are to be provided legally to prevent illegal abortions in any place and in turn to prevent maternal morbidity and mortality related to abortions.
- MTP can be performed in Government institutions.
- All the private / voluntary institutions can perform MTP only if they are approved by the District level committee in the Districts. No MTP is to be done in any place without registration under MTP Act .
- MTP services are to be provided by qualified Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) as prescribed in the Act under the specified conditions mentioned under the Act. No MTP is to be done by any medical practitioner, who is not qualified or trained, certified and registered under the State Medical register.
- No MTP is to be done without obtaining consent of the patient in “Form C” as per MTP Act. For “Minor” or “Mentally ill” patients, consent of the guardian is to be taken in “Form C”.
- For MTP upto 1st trimester upto 12 weeks, opinion of one Registered medical Practitioner and for 2nd trimester pregnancy, opinion of two Registered medical practitioners is to be taken in Form I.
- For all MTP cases, admission register as per format of Form III under the MTP Act is to be maintained which should be kept in secret custody. Reference to the woman in other records will be made by the serial number assigned to her in the Admission register.
- Under the Act, MTP is permitted under specific situations / reasons. Sex selection is not one of the permissible grounds. Hence, No MTP is to be done for sex selection purpose which is prohibited and punishable under the Act.

B. Various forms and records to be maintained

- Form A - Application Form for site Approval
- Form B - Certificate of Approval
- Form C - Consent Form
- Form I - Opinion Form of RMP with list of indication for MTP
- Form II - MTP reporting Form
- Form III - Admission Register with 14 Columns
- Monthly report with regard to the MTP performance as per Form II is to be submitted by each centre to the DFWD / District authorities on the 1st of every month. 100% collection of MTP reports both from Govt / private institutions is to be ensured by the DFWD of each District.
- Original MTP registration certificate is to be displayed in waiting area of the approved hospitals.
- Qualification certificate and Tamilnadu Medical Council registration certificate of the Surgeon / Anesthetist / Assistant doctor as per registration is to be displayed in the approved hospitals.

C. Experience and Training required by a RMP

Upto 20 weeks gestation (2nd trimester):

- A practitioner who holds a post graduate degree or diploma in Obstetrics&Gyny.
- A practitioner who has completed 6 months as House Surgeon in Obstetrics&Gyny.
- A practitioner who has at least one year experience in the practice of Obstetrics&Gyny. at any hospital that has all facilities.

Upto 12 weeks gestation only (1st trimester):

- A practitioner who has assisted a RMP in 25 cases of MTP of which at least 5 have been performed independently in a hospital established or maintained by the Government or a training institute approved for this purpose by the government.

D. Composition and Tenure of the District Level Committee (DLC)

- The District Level Committee (DLC) is responsible for approval / suspension of place for performing MTPs and is chaired by the District Collector as per G.O.Ms.No.29, H&FW Dept Dated 4-1-1989 and G.O.Ms.No.2109, H&FW Dept Dated 19-10-1982 (In respect of Chennai, Commissioner of Chennai Corporation is the Chairman as per G.O.Ms.No.44, H&FW Dept, Dated 21-1-1998)
- The committee consists of not less than 3 and not more than 5 members which will include District Gynecologist / Surgeon / Anesthetist and other members from the local medical profession, NGOs and Panchayat Raj Institutions of the District. One of the committee members shall be a woman.
- Tenure of the Committee shall be for 2 calender years and the tenure of the non-government members shall not be for more than 2 terms.

E. Requirements for approval of a place

- A place can be approved for terminating pregnancies upto 12 weeks, if it has the following facilities:

- a) Gynecology examination / labor table
 - b) Resuscitation and sterilization equipment
 - c) Drugs and parental fluids
 - d) Back-up facilities for treatment of shock
 - e) Facilities for transportation
- For terminating pregnancies upto 20 weeks, the place should have the following facilities:
 - a) An operation table and instruments for performing abdominal or gynecological surgery
 - b) Anesthetic equipment, resuscitation and sterilization equipments
 - c) Drugs and parental fluids for emergency use, notified by Government of India from time to time.
 - **Time limit for approval of a place:** The place shall be inspected within 2 months of the receipt of application and certificate of approval may be issued within next 2 months or if there is any deficiency noted, within 2 months of the deficiency being rectified by the applicant.

F. Inspection of a place – Monitoring and Supervision by the District officer

- The DDM&RHS&FW / JDHS of the District and the District Family Welfare Medical officer, DFWB, Corporation of Chennai may inspect the MTP approved institutions with a view to verify whether termination of pregnancies a) is being done therein under safe and hygienic conditions. b) is being done in accordance with the reasons laid down as per the MTP Act. If there is any deficiency noted which is detrimental to the Act, it should be brought to the notice of the DLC for further action as per the MTP Act.
- Further it should also be ensured that all the required forms and registers are maintained at the MTP performing institutions and the reporting system should be monitored to ensure that all the details as per the content of the reporting forms are filled up properly.

G. Violation of the Act

- The Act prescribes specific punishment which shall not be less than 2 years but which may extend to 7 years under the IPC in the following cases
 - a) An MTP conducted by a person who is not a Registered Medical Practitioner as defined under the Act
 - b) Any person who conducts an MTP at a place which is not approved
 - c) Owners of places where MTP is conducted in case such place is not approved to conduct MTPs.