

Allegheny Reproductive Health Center
Instructions for ALL ABORTION appointments:

Once you enter the building for your appointment, you or your guest will not be permitted to leave the building until your appointment is over. If you decide to leave the building, we will reschedule your appointment for a different day. Please expect to be in the clinic for 6 - 8 hours.

PHOTO ID: You need to bring a photo ID with your date of birth and the same name you made your appointment under. If someone is coming to your appointment with you, have them bring a photo ID. We will make a copy of your ID and we do not allow anyone inside of the building without a photo ID for patient and staff safety and security.

GUESTS: We allow patients to bring 1 guest with them to their appointment. This guest will be allowed inside of the building only if they have photo ID. We do not allow children to attend the appointment due to limited waiting space.

DRESS: We recommend wearing comfortable clothes including bottoms and shoes that are easy to take off and put back on. Please remember to wear full underwear that can support a pad and dress in layers so you don't feel too hot or cold.

PAYMENT: We accept payment in the form of cash, credit & debit, and money order. We do not accept personal checks. If someone else is paying for the abortion or you are using someone's card, please complete credit card authorization paperwork that you can find on our website. Payment is due at the time of your appointment. Failure to have your payment ready could result in delayed check in and having to reschedule your appointment.

INSURANCE FOR ABORTION: Private insurance companies (insurance through your job) may sometimes pay for your abortion procedure. If you would like to know, you can call the member services number on the back of your insurance card and ask if they cover elective abortion. If you want to use your insurance for an abortion, you must call and give us your insurance information over the phone so that we can pre-check it. If you do not give us your insurance information before the day of your appointment, we will most likely not be able to check your insurance for abortion coverage on the day of your appointment. Please remember to bring your insurance card.

INSURANCE FOR BIRTH CONTROL: Bring your insurance card to your appointment with you, even if you are not using it for your abortion. If you are interested in getting birth control on the day of your appointment you will need your physical card. If you have private insurance please call and give us your insurance information over the phone so that we can pre-check it for you. If you do not give us your insurance

information before the day of your appointment, we may not be able to check your insurance for birth control coverage on the day of your appointment.

SECURITY: *We allow cell phones inside of our clinic, but we will give you a sticker to place over your camera to protect the safety and privacy of patients and staff. We have a zero tolerance policy against photography or recording in the building. If you are not able to comply with this policy you and your guest will be asked to leave. We do not allow weapons or anything that could be used as a weapon like pocket knives or mace inside of our clinic. We have a staff person at the door who will be checking your IDs and checking you and your bag for weapons.*

ADDRESS AND PARKING: *Our address is 5910 Kirkwood Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206. We do not have a parking lot. Please do not park in the leased lot across the street. There is a parking lot a few blocks from the clinic across the street from McDonalds where you can pay for up to 6 hours at a time. The meters accept quarters and credit cards (no Discover cards). **Once you arrive for your appointment, you or your guest will not be permitted to leave the building to feed the meter or your appointment will be rescheduled.** Please download the Pittsburgh Parking app at <http://www.gomobilepittsburgh.com> to feed the meter from inside the building.*

PROTESTORS: *There are protestors who stand outside of our clinic. They are a good way to locate our clinic as they usually stand across the street. On Tuesdays and Thursdays there are usually just a few. They should not touch you. On Saturdays, we have escorts in brightly colored vests who can help you get to the door as quickly as possible.*

APPOINTMENT TIMES: *We will call you the day before your appointment to confirm your appointment. There is a slight possibility that the time of your appointment may change so please be sure to confirm your appointment when we call. If you are more than 15 minutes late for your appointment, we will have to reschedule your appointment for a different day. Likewise, if you are more than 15 minutes early for your appointment, we will ask you to come back to the clinic closer to your appointment time.*

TIME: *Please expect to be in the clinic from 6 - 8 hours. We apologize in advance for the wait time. We are one of just 2 clinics in the area and we have to schedule a lot of patients.*

IF YOU ARE HAVING A MEDICATION ABORTION:

You can eat the day of the abortion. You want your stomach to be settled because you need to keep the first pill down for at least 20 minutes. Feel free to bring light snacks with you to your appointment as you may be here for 4-6 hours. You will take a pill with the doctor when you are here and then take more medicine at home. Plan to go through several hours of heavy bleeding over the few days following your initial appointment so

arrange any work schedules or childcare that you might need. You will need to return to the clinic 1-2 weeks after your first appointment for a follow up ultrasound to make sure that the pill worked correctly. You do not need a guest to accompany you to the appointment. We ask that you not use drugs or alcohol before you come in.

IF YOU ARE HAVING A SURGICAL ABORTION WITH NO SEDATION (LOCAL):

You do not have eating or drinking restrictions. You can take your prescribed medications unless we asked you not to take them. We ask that you not use drugs or alcohol before you come in. Feel free to bring light snacks with you to your appointment. You do not need a guest to accompany you to the appointment.

IF YOU ARE HAVING A SURGICAL ABORTION WITH CONSCIOUS SEDATION:

You do not have eating or drinking restrictions. You can take your prescribed medications unless we asked you not to take them. We ask that you not use drugs or alcohol before you come in. Feel free to bring light snacks with you to your appointment. You will need someone to come with you that can be responsible for getting you home. You will not be able to drive or leave on your own. The person who comes with you will need to be with you at the time of your appointment and stay in the building for the entire length of the appointment, which could be 6-8 hours. You may not use someone else's guest in the waiting room as your guest for sedation. If you or your guest decide to leave the building, we will reschedule your appointment for a different day. If you have any current or past recreational drug use and you want conscious sedation, we require that you abstain from cocaine and amphetamine use for two weeks before your abortion procedure. Our priority is to keep our patients safe in a non-judgmental environment, but if you are not able to abstain we highly recommend that you have your abortion in the hospital where emergency staff can care for you if a complex problem arises while you are under anesthesia. You can take your regularly prescribed meds, such as subutex, as normal unless you have been instructed otherwise by our staff.

IF YOU ARE HAVING A SURGICAL ABORTION WITH MONITORED ANESTHESIA CARE:

You cannot eat or have anything at all by mouth for 8 hours before your appointment. This includes gum, candy, mints and cigarettes. You can drink clear liquids up until 4 hours before your appointment. Clear liquids include water, apple juice, gatorade, tea and coffee without cream or milk. DO NOT drink carbonated beverages, milk or cream, or red colored beverages. If you are prescribed medications, you can take them with a sip of water. You will need someone to come with you that can be responsible for getting you home. You will not be able to drive or leave on your own. The person who comes with you will need to be with you at the time of your appointment and stay in the building for the entire length of the appointment, which could be 6-8 hours. You may not use someone else's guest in the waiting room as your guest for sedation. If you or your guest decide to leave the building, we will reschedule your appointment for a different day. Your guest is free to bring light snacks with them to the appointment.

IF YOU ARE HAVING A MEDICAL EMERGENCY AFTER YOUR PROCEDURE:

Please call us first at 412-661-8811 to reach our 24 hour a day emergency answering service. We can best determine how to address your concerns and can often help you avoid costly and unnecessary hospital bills.

IF YOU ARE UNDER THE AGE OF 18:

*You will need to bring a parent with you to consent to the abortion. Your parent will need to be with you at the time of your appointment and stay in the building for the entire length of the appointment, which could be 6-8 hours. You must have a **photo ID and birth certificate with your parent's name on the birth certificate. Your parent must have a photo ID with a first and last name that matches the first and last name on the birth certificate.** If the names do not match, your parent must bring documentation of a name change, like a marriage certificate. The parent that you bring with you must be the parent who spoke with the doctor on the phone for the doctor's call.*

If you are under 18 and do not have a photo ID, you may bring something with your picture and name on it, such as a school yearbook page, school ID, or sports photo with your name on it. If you have questions or concerns about your ID, please contact us.

If you do not have a parent to consent or you do not want to tell your parents, you can schedule for an initial appointment to start the Judicial Bypass process. A Judicial Bypass is when a minor goes to court and gets permission from a judge to have an abortion without notification of their parents or guardians and without their consent. We will help you set up the appointment with a lawyer from The Women's Law Project and a judge. There are no additional fees you will need to pay to go to court.