Pregnant people can face many barriers to accessing abortion at clinics, including distance, scheduling difficulties and long wait times for appointments, the need to take time off from work and/or arrange for childcare, and harassment from clinic protesters.

In an effort to combat some of these barriers, Gynuity Health Projects, a non-profit reproductive health research organization, launched a project in 2016 called TelAbortion to provide medical abortion using telemedicine. Medical abortion is the use of pills (called mifepristone and misoprostol) to end a pregnancy. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved mifepristone in 2000, and since then over 3.5 million people in the U.S. have had a medical abortion.

The TelAbortion project is a way for people to access medical abortion without going to an abortion clinic. An abortion provider conducts a video evaluation, reviews test results obtained at facilities in the patient’s community (if tests are needed), and sends the abortion pills by mail. The project is a research study conducted under a protocol filed with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and approved by ethical review boards. The project is running in 13 states and DC: CO, GA, HI, IA, IL, MD, ME, MN, MT, NM, NY, OR, and WA.

As of May 2020, the project has enrolled more than 1000 patients. 95% of participants completed their abortion without surgery, and satisfaction has been high among both patients and providers.

**How does TelAbortion work?**

*Patients must be 70 days (10 weeks) pregnant or less when they take the first pill, and located in one of the project states listed above.*

1. **At initial contact,** patient hears about TelAbortion process, undergoes prescreening, and schedules Video Evaluation
2. **During Video Evaluation,** provider records medical history, obtains informed consent electronically, identifies facilities for screening and follow-up tests if needed
3. **Provider reviews results of screening tests.** If patient wants to proceed and is eligible for service, provider sends package
4. **Patient takes medications, has abortion, and obtains follow-up tests. Follow-up consultation 7-14 days later**

To find out more information, visit [www.telabortion.org](http://www.telabortion.org) or contact us at telabortion@gynuity.org.