

# **Medical Abortion in Azerbaijan**

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# «National Strategy for Reproductive Health» (2008-2015)

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- In 2008 « National Strategy for Reproductive Health» was elaborated in Azerbaijan. This document was evaluated by WHO experts and Director General of WHO Assembly – Margaret Chan.

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- The document reflects main goals and objectives for improvement of reproductive health, and main ways for achieving development goals identified in UN Millennium Declaration, in particular reduction of maternal mortality, improvement of quality of infant health.

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- During last decade maternal mortality was decreased in 21% in the republic, though indicator of maternal mortality is still high and 6-7 times exceeds average indicator of European region. Hemorrhage is still main cause in structure of maternal mortality (it is to be mentioned that in 2008 hemorrhage that brought to fatal outcome was due to uncontrolled use of Cytotec)

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- According to official statistics, during last years trend to increase of the number of abortions was outlined in Azerbaijan, besides registrations of abortions are underestimated in the republic. During last five years coefficient of abortions per 1000 women (15 – 49 years) is in limits of 7,8 – 8,1.

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- However, according to the latest available data, the number of abortions per woman of reproductive age compiled 3,2, which is one of the highest indicators among the countries of European region of WHO.

# Following could be indicated among the reasons of given situation:

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- Insufficient population awareness about the methods of preservation from undesirable pregnancy and harm of unsafe abortion;
- Interest of doctors in conduction of abortions;
- Quite high cost of contraceptives;
- Limited access to healthcare service in remote rural areas.

## Following work was and shall be implemented for purpose of changing given situation:

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- Clinic records were developed according to methods of contraception;
- Cooperation with population, involving volunteers from communities is underway;
- Methodology of medicament abortion is being implemented;
- Since October 2008 project **Gynuity** is being implemented in cooperation with S/R Institute of Ob/Gyn, Ministry of Healthcare.



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- Since October 2008 medical project **Gynuity**, on following protocol: 200 mg mifepristone and 800 mg misoprostol, is being implemented in cooperation with S/R Institute of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Ministry of Healthcare.

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- The protocol considers intake of 1 pill of mifepristone in clinic and after two days home administration of 4 pills of misoprostol.

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- 149 procedures were conducted during 6 months of the project. Just three out of those required surgical intervention.

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- Information regarding implementation of this project at all antenatal clinics of Baku was provided within the project, advertisements informing population about possibility of conduction of medicament abortion, were posted as well.

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- Very low interest of doctors of antenatal clinics in sending their patients for this procedure.
  - Low appealability of women could be explained by the case that previously medicament abortion was being conducted at private clinic, where its cost compiles about 300 – 400 USD and women think that the price is same in our clinics.

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- Practically all patients, participated in given research, expressed their satisfaction with this method, and mentioned that in the event of necessity they will use namely this method of termination of pregnancy.

# **In the light of above mentioned, the following is planned in the end of the project:**

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- Implementation of medicament abortion at healthcare facilities of Azerbaijan;
- Registration of preparation Mifepristone at the Ministry of Healthcare of Azerbaijan;
- Provision of information to population;
- Provision of trainings to doctors, for purpose of conducting medicament abortion, in case of necessity of termination of pregnancy, since this is the most safe method of abortion.

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***Thank You For Attention!***