



## VIDEO COMPANION GUIDE

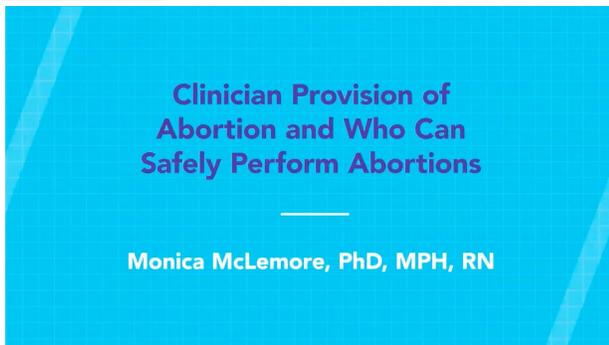
# EXPLAINED: Abortion Research & Policy *Who Can Safely Provide Abortions?*

### Learning Objectives:

By the end of the session, learners will be able to:

- Describe the current status of clinician provision of abortion in the US.
- Describe the evidence that demonstrates that Advanced Practice Clinicians (APCs) are competent providers of patient-centered abortion care.

### Video Lecture:



Who Can Safely Provide Abortions?

Presented by Monica McLemore, PhD, MPH, RN

Available at: [InnovatingEducation.org/Explained](http://InnovatingEducation.org/Explained)

Joyce TJ et al., The Impact of State Mandatory Counseling and Waiting Period Laws on Abortion: A Literature Review, New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2009

### Suggested Readings:

- Freedman L, et al. "[Radical or Routine? Nurse Practitioners, Nurse-Midwives, and Physician Assistants as Abortion Providers.](#)" *Reprod Health Matters*. 2015;23(45):90-2.
- McLemore M, et al. "[Women Know Best--Findings from a Thematic Analysis of 5,214 Surveys of Abortion Care Experience.](#)" *Women's Health Issues*. 2014;24(6):594-9.
- McLemore M, et al. "[Calculus Formation: Nurses' Decision-Making in Abortion-Related Care.](#)" *Res Nurs Health*. 2015;38(3):222-3.
- McLemore M, et al. "[Recruitment and Retention Strategies for Expert Nurses in Abortion Care Provision.](#)" *Contraception*. 2015;91(6):474-9.
- Taylor D, et al. "[Multiple Determinants of the Abortion Care Experience: From the Patient's Perspective.](#)" *Am J Med Qual*. 2013;28(6):510-8.
- Weitz T, et al. "[Safety of Aspiration Abortion Performed by Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Midwives, and Physician Assistants under a California Legal Waiver.](#)" *Am J Public Health*. 2013;103(3):454-61.
- Weitz T, et al. "[Advancing Scope of Practice for Advanced Practice Clinicians: More Than a Matter of Access.](#)" *Contraception*. 2009;80(2):105-7.



## Lesson Plan in a Flipped Classroom Setting *EXPLAINED: Who Can Safely Provide Abortions?*

Using a flipped classroom model, this lesson plan will use the video lecture and additional resources to provide learners with an engaging learning environment. Here's [how to use this course in a "flipped-classroom"](#) at your own institution.

### Teaching Points

- Despite support from the WHO and evidence showing that advanced practice clinicians (nurse practitioners, midwives, and physician assistants) are competent in the necessary skills to provide medication and aspiration abortion, many states in the US limit these provisions to physicians only.
- Health Workforce Pilot Project #171 (HWPP #171) was a California-based, multi-site, six-year study of CNMs, NPs, and PAs as providers of early aspiration abortion care. The study results confirm:
  - CNMs, NPs, and PAs can be successfully trained to competence in aspiration abortion care and can provide early abortion care that is clinically as safe as the care provided by physicians.
  - Outpatient abortion is very safe, whether performed by a CNM, NP, PA or a physician.
  - Patients report high satisfaction during their abortion experience when they are seen by a CNM, NP, PA, or a physician.
- In 2015, based on the findings from HWPP #171, California passed two laws that removed barriers for advanced practice clinicians to provide aspiration abortion, removed barriers from facilities where abortions could be performed, and allowed for office-based abortion provision.

### Time Required

*Total Time of Video Lectures: 7 minutes*

*Estimated Independent Prep Time Required by Learner: 30 minutes*

*Total Estimated Time Required for In-Classroom Activity: 30 minutes*

### Materials Required and Instructor Preparation

- Learners will need internet access with enough bandwidth to view streaming videos.
- The instructor should print copies of the small group activity quiz (page 4) included in this packet.

### Activity

*Independent Preparation (conducted by learner before in-classroom activity)*

- Learners should independently view the video lecture.
- Learners may be assigned any of the relevant readings (determined by instructor's desired learner work-load) as outlined in the "Suggested Readings" section on page 1.

*In-Classroom Activity (Small Group Activity)*

- Divide the classroom into small groups and distribute the small group activity quiz (page 3-4). Instruct learners spend 15 minutes and work together to answer the questions provided.
- At the end of this activity, convene the class. Present the questions and have learners share their answers and discuss.
- Write the correct answers on the board for the class to see. Collect each handout from learners.
  - The instructor can reference the answer sheet on page 5.

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Names



*EXPLAINED: Who Can Safely Provide Abortions?  
Small Group Activity*

In your group, answer the following questions referencing the video lecture assigned before class. Be prepared to turn in this handout at the end of class.

Questions

1. The WHO has determined that medication abortion provision in the first trimester can be conducted by the following except for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - nurses
  - midwives
  - pharmacists
  - physician assistants
  - none of the above
  
2. List at least two necessary competency skills of providing medication or aspiration abortion.
  - i.
  
  
  - ii.
  
3. Which of the following about advance practice clinicians as providers of early aspiration abortion care is **FALSE**?
  - CNMs, NPs, and PAs can be successfully trained to competence in aspiration abortion care.
  - CNMs, NPs, and PAs can provide early abortion care that is clinically as safe as the care provided by physicians.
  - Outpatient abortion is very safe, whether performed by a CNM, NP, PA or a physician.
  - Patients report a lower satisfaction during their abortion experience when they are seen by a CNM, NP, PA compared to when they are seen by a physician.
  - None of the above.

Open-Ended Question

In order to expand APC practice to include providing aspiration abortion, it is necessary for states to have strong nurse practice acts, less restrictive provision laws (e.g. no physician-only laws for abortion), and local nurses and organization willing to develop the coalition(s) needed to ensure first-trimester aspiration



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abortion provision by APCs. What are some conditions that already exist in your state that could help streamline the expansion of APC practice? If none exist, what are some possible first steps to achieving abortion provision by APCs in your state?



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# *EXPLAINED: Who Can Safely Provide Abortions?* Quiz Answer Sheet

### Questions and Answers

1. The WHO has determined that medication abortion provision in the first trimester can be conducted by the following except for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - nurses
  - midwives
  - pharmacists
  - physician assistants
  - none of the above

Explanation: The WHO made no recommendations for medication abortion provision by pharmacists not because they are deemed unsafe, but because the necessary physical assessments during provision are outside the scope of practice for pharmacists. Therefore, the evidence was not reviewed to determine provision of medication abortion by pharmacists, except that they would be expected to dispense the medications as indicated by prescription.

2. List at least two necessary competency skills of providing medication or aspiration abortion.

Answer: Acceptable answers include:

1. Assessing patient eligibility for both aspiration and medication abortion provision.
  2. Determining completeness of the abortion or the need for follow-up for both aspiration and medication abortion provision.
  3. Administering Misoprostol and/or Mifepristone for medication abortion provision.
  4. Cervical preparation and pain management for aspiration abortion provision.
3. Which of the following about advance practice clinicians as providers of early aspiration abortion care is FALSE?
    - CNMs, NPs, and PAs can be successfully trained to competence in aspiration abortion care.
    - CNMs, NPs, and PAs can provide early abortion care that is clinically as safe as the care provided by physicians.
    - Outpatient abortion is very safe, whether performed by a CNM, NP, PA or a physician.
    - Patients report a lower satisfaction during their abortion experience when they are seen by a CNM, NP, PA compared to when they are seen by a physician.
    - None of the above.