

Telehealth for Medication Abortion Care

What Industry Leaders Need to Know



THE FACTS

Equity as the foundation for telehealth

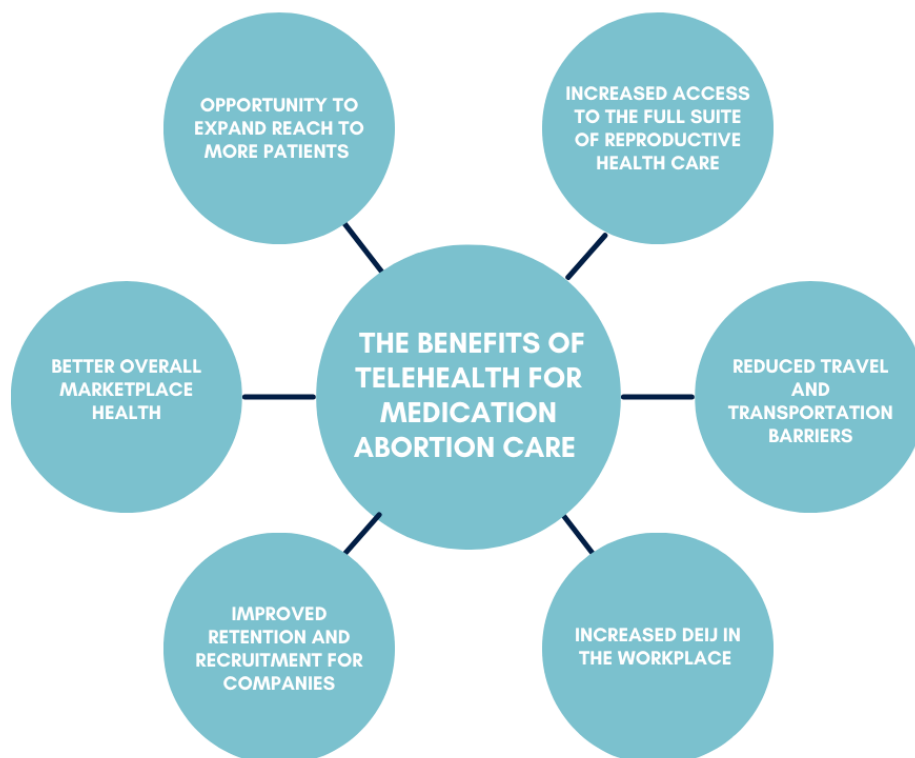
- ▶ Telehealth is intended to address inequities in health care delivery by breaking down barriers to the care people need and deserve.
- ▶ Telehealth has the potential to [bridge gaps](#) in access to care for underserved communities.

Medication abortion and telehealth

- ▶ [Medication abortion](#) is an abortion method that uses an FDA-approved regimen combination (mifepristone and misoprostol) to terminate a pregnancy during the first trimester.
- ▶ This regimen is extremely safe and effective, including [via telehealth](#). Today, medication abortion accounts for [more than half](#) of the abortions in the U.S. In fact, most Americans [strongly support](#) access to medication abortion via telemedicine — and providers have [embraced](#) the practice.

Ensuring medication abortion is accessible via telehealth is a vital equity issue

- ▶ Telehealth addresses patient barriers including [geography](#), [income](#), [medically unnecessary](#) in-person requirements, and more. Patients seeking abortion care face added [stigma](#) and [political interference](#) making telehealth critical to overcoming these obstacles.
- ▶ Based on these barriers, access to telehealth and access to abortion are inextricably linked. In order to deliver the full spectrum of care with meaningful access to telehealth, it must include access to abortion using telehealth.



WHY IT MATTERS

The equity case for reproductive health care via telehealth

- ▶ Telehealth medication abortion care can alleviate costly [barriers](#) to access such as long distances to seek abortion care, travel time, work coverage, and child care.
- ▶ Protecting telehealth as a service delivery model for abortion care can help to ensure [continuity of care](#) especially in places with [maternity care deserts](#). It also allows providers to follow scientifically-based [clinical indication](#) by avoiding [medically unnecessary requirements](#) that present barriers to care.
- ▶ Abortions via telehealth [increased 85%](#) since the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* decision, showing that, in today's politicized environment, telehealth is crucial to accessing safe, effective, and legal abortion care.

The business case for reproductive health care via telehealth

- ▶ [Companies](#) that provide reproductive health care services to their employees have better retention, recruiting, and DEIJ outcomes.
- ▶ Offering telehealth medication abortion care to patients connects one-time patients to a provider who can then support them with a range of other services.
- ▶ Providing telehealth abortion care ensures [less travel time](#) for individuals seeking care, and thus requires less time off to receive these essential services.
- ▶ Access to the full suite of reproductive care is essential to the health of the workplace and reduces employee [turnover](#), thus increasing company savings. Abortion care via telehealth – which expands availability to more patients – can lead to additional savings.
- ▶ Sexual and reproductive health care restrictions are [expensive](#). If all state-level restrictions on abortion identified in 2021 were eliminated, an additional **505,000** women aged 15 to 44 would be in the labor force as of that year – earning a combined **\$3 billion** annually.
- ▶ Access to abortion via telehealth provides [economic empowerment](#) to patients in the workforce, allowing workers to plan if and when they have a child— thus increasing economic security, opportunity, and mobility.

The Risks of Telehealth Abortion Restrictions

The current state of telehealth abortion restrictions includes medically unnecessary in-person requirements, as well as interference with both continuity of care and the patient-provider relationship

More than [10 million](#) women across the U.S. could lose access to a full suite of reproductive care.

Businesses, which [perform effectively](#) under female leadership, will suffer financial and diversity losses.

Industry [innovation](#) will be stifled.

Rates of maternal mortality — already [unacceptable](#) in our country — will [increase](#).

With bans on providers who specifically offer reproductive health services, there will be a decrease in [telehealth-eligible clinicians](#) who can offer many other essential services.

[Attacks](#) on telehealth medication abortion are likely to extend to the telehealth industry writ large, and bans are likely to stretch across other critical services.

Health [inequities](#) will be exacerbated and further entrenched.

CONTACT US