

# What to Know: *Abortion Care in the Navy and Marine Corps*



## ***Roe vs. Wade: Implications for Service Members***

- *Roe vs. Wade* was a landmark US Supreme Court case decided in 1973 that recognized a woman's constitutional right to an abortion. The landmark case was overturned on 24 June 2022 by the US Supreme Court, therefore access to abortion care will be dependent on [individual state law](#). In states with abortion restrictions, service members may need to travel out of state to receive abortion care, depending on the circumstances.
- Due to the 1976 Hyde Amendment, there are limitations in which federal funds can be used for abortions. Because TRICARE is a federal health insurance program, abortions are only covered under certain situations.
- **Abortions are only covered by TRICARE under certain situations.**
  - **TRICARE-covered abortion care** includes abortions for a pregnancy that is the result of rape or incest or a pregnancy that endangers the life of the pregnant person.
  - **Non-covered abortion care** includes all other situations of pregnancy termination.

## **Covered abortion care**

- For a covered abortion, convalescent leave for medical care and Temporary Additional Duty (if travel is necessary) will be recommended by the treating/referring physician. **If there is no local access, then the member will be put on Government-funded official travel orders and will receive expeditious transport to the nearest location to provide the necessary abortion services.** Please reference the [Navy](#) and [Marine Corps](#) abortion policies.
- **TRICARE will also cover any relevant follow-up care**, including mental health services related to the covered abortion.
- To receive abortion care for a pregnancy that is the result of rape or incest, Sailors and Marines can request this care through their medical provider; the member **does not** need to obtain permission from their Command. Service members **are not** required to make a formal report or engage with the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Coordinator (SARC) or Family Advocacy Program (FAP) to be eligible for an abortion.
- For Sailors and Marines stationed outside of the continental United States (OCONUS), host nation laws are observed at military medical treatment facilities (MTFs); please reference [host nation laws](#) to ensure compliance.

## **Non-Covered abortion care**

- Abortions not covered by TRICARE will require service members to comply with state laws (travel may be required). [Across different states](#), access to abortion care may depend on how far along the service member is in their pregnancy; it is best to look at all options as soon as possible.
- **Service members may also be granted up to 4 days of special liberty to receive a non-covered abortion or may use personal leave.** Service members **do not** need to disclose that abortion care is the reason for requesting leave or liberty.
- Commanders can grant service members convalescent leave following a non-covered abortion at the recommendation of a health care provider.
- Out-of-pocket abortions typically cost between \$150-\$4,000 and increase in price as the pregnancy is further along. Please note some facilities only offer abortion procedures up to a certain point in the pregnancy's development. Coverage of translator services will be at the service member's expense.
- Follow-up or ongoing medical care after a non-covered abortion may be received at an MTF.
- Medication abortion pills are available by mail in states without restrictions surrounding telemedicine abortion. Service members should comprehensively evaluate services of this kind (such as [Women on the Web](#), [Plan C](#), [Hey Jane](#), or [Three for Freedom](#)). Given the constantly changing legal landscape, the legal status of this option is subject to change; please be aware of local policies if considering this option.



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## New Policies on Non-Covered Reproductive Health Care

- To ensure service members and their families' can **access reproductive health care including non-covered abortion care and non-covered assisted reproductive technologies such as in-vitro fertilization**, The DoD released three policies covering:
  - ✓ Delayed command notification of pregnancy to 20 weeks gestation unless duty assignments require earlier notification, to allow for private decision making.
  - ✓ Administrative absence for non-covered reproductive health care.
  - ✓ Travel allowances for non-covered reproductive health care.
- For Service-specific implementation guidelines for the DoD policies, two All Navy (ALNAV) messages, two Marine Administrative (MARADMIN) messages and one Navy Administrative (NAVADMIN) message were released. Please review these policies to understand procedures for accessing administrative absences, travel allowances, as well as guidance for duty assignments requiring earlier command notification.



February 2023  
DoD Policies,  
Navy Implementation  
Guidance and  
Supporting Resources  
*(resources attached to this PDF)*

## What else should I know?

- There are two different types of abortions: medication abortions (i.e., abortion pills) and in-clinic abortions, which require a medical procedure to be performed by a provider. The type of abortion a service member will receive will be determined by how far along their pregnancy is in consultation with their healthcare provider. To learn more about abortion options, please [click here](#).
- The attached Q&A document includes additional guidance on abortion care that DoD facilities can offer, TRICARE coverage, leave and travel policies for service members obtaining abortion care, and more.



February 2023  
DoD Q&A Document  
*(Q&A attached to this PDF)*

## Contraceptive care

- Service members not planning a pregnancy are highly encouraged to consider the range of contraceptive options available and covered under TRICARE. Learn more through the [Decide + Be Ready app](#) and discuss these options with a healthcare provider. [Emergency contraception \(birth control used to prevent pregnancy after unprotected sex\)](#) can be obtained any time it is needed, or to have for future use. Emergency contraceptive medication works better the sooner it is taken after unprotected vaginal sex. It's a good idea to have it on hand before it's need it. The DoD will continue to provide emergency contraceptive care in MTFs, consistent with federal law, regardless of state law restrictions.
- To learn more about available contraceptive methods, including emergency contraceptive methods, please [click here](#). Service members can go to a [Walk-In Contraception Clinic](#) without an appointment to learn more about contraception and receive contraception the same day.



March 2023  
Walk-In Clinic List  
*(list attached to this PDF)*

HELPFUL RESOURCES	LINK
Access to <b>all DoD reproductive health care policies and Navy implementation guidance</b>	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>
Additional information on <b>abortion access in the military</b>	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>
Live tracking of <b>abortion laws</b> across the <b>United States</b>	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>
Live tracking of <b>abortion legality worldwide</b>	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>
Miscarriage and Abortion <b>Clinician Support Hotline</b>	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>
Reproductive Rights <b>Legal Hotline</b>	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>
Pregnancy Options <b>Support Hotline</b>	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>
Support for <b>financial and logistical access to abortion</b>	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>
<b>Contact for questions</b> surrounding pregnancy in the Navy and Marine Corps	<a href="mailto:ALTN_PregnancyandParenthood@navy.mil">ALTN_PregnancyandParenthood@navy.mil</a>

RESOURCE LAST UPDATED 15 OCTOBER 2024

Developed by: **NAVY MEDICINE FEMALE FORCE READINESS CLINICAL COMMUNITY**

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