

We believe that the termination of pregnancy (TOP) should be treated in the same way as any other medical practice, remaining subject to the regulations that apply to all clinical procedures. Decriminalisation of TOP should be based on best available evidence and in accordance with relevant professional standards.

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) represents nurses, midwives, students and health care practitioners by promoting excellence in practice and shaping health policies. The breadth and depth of health care provision in the 21st century, combined with our multicultural and diverse society, requires us to respond to evolutions in health care, to ensure practice remains safe and effective for women.

References and further reading

RCN Termination of Pregnancy (Induced Abortion) (RCN 2013) [rcn.org.uk/
professional-development/publications/
rcn-guidance-termination-of-pregnancy-
uk-pub-009325](http://rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/rcn-guidance-termination-of-pregnancy-uk-pub-009325)

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