

October 4, 2019

SC Senate Medical Affairs Committee
Attention: Research Director
P.O. Box 142, 412 Gressette Bldg
Columbia, S.C. 29202

Dear Senators,

September 10, I testified in person that, the public as well as many healthcare professionals are not aware of the real harm, physical and emotional, that is caused by abortion, as it is currently practiced in the U.S. Women are seen in emergency departments all over the country for abortion complications, but since there is no system in place to report abortion complications to health departments, the harm goes unrecognized and unmeasured.

I wish for the record to reflect some of the complications that are documented in medical textbooks as well as the ICD-10 Coding system.

Below is a list of the immediate complications that can occur with abortions. These are the immediate complications only. There are other problems which may not be detected until long after the abortion. To see a discussion of these immediate complications, which require medical intervention, please refer to the textbook: *A Clinician's Guide to Medical and Surgical Abortions*. By Paul, Lichtenberg, Borgatta, Grimes, Stubblefield, copyright 1999, and the updated edition: *Management of Unintended and Abnormal Pregnancy, Comprehensive Abortion Care*, by the same authors plus Creinin, copyright 2009.

I am sending the discussions of the complications, excerpted from the 2009 edition, in a separate attachment, titled *Abortion_Complications_Management_of_Unintended_excerpt_with_note*

Misestimation and Failure of Induced Abortion

- Erroneous Diagnosis of Pregnancy
- Failed Attempted Abortion
- Medical Abortion
- Underestimation of Gestational Age

Retained Tissue

- Incomplete abortion
- Postabortal Hematometra

Hemorrhage

- Uterine Hypotonus (Atony)
- Placental Abnormalities
- Arteriovenous malformations
- Disseminated Intravascular Coagulopathy

Infection

- Endoparametritis
- Toxic shock syndrome
- Pelvic Abscess
- Postabortal endocarditis

Uterine Injury

- Tears of the External Cervical Os
- Low cervical Tears
- High Cervical Tears
- Perforation of the Myometrium

Uterine Rupture
Asherman Syndrome
Thrombosis and Embolism
 Deep vein thrombosis
 Pulmonary Embolism
 Amniotic fluid embolism
Management of Acute Medical Events other conditions
 Vasovagal Reaction
 Anaphylaxis
 Asthmatic Reactions
 Seizures

You may also find it helpful to consult the ICD codes.

ICD-10 codes are alphanumeric codes used by doctors, health insurance companies, and public health agencies across the world to represent diagnoses. Every disease, disorder, injury, infection, and symptom has its own ICD-10 code. ICD-10 codes are used for everything from processing health insurance claims to tracking disease epidemics and compiling worldwide mortality statistics. Below is just a small sample of elective termination of pregnancy codes:

1. [CD-10-CM Codes](#) ›
2. [O00-O9A](#) Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium ›
3. [O00-O08](#) Pregnancy with abortive outcome

Complications following (induced) termination of pregnancy O04- >

Type 1 Excludes

encounter for elective termination of pregnancy, uncomplicated ([Z33.2](#))

failed attempted termination of pregnancy ([O07.-](#))

Includes complications following (induced) termination of pregnancy

Clinical Information

Abortion brought on intentionally.

Codes

- [O04](#) Complications following (induced) termination of pregnancy
 - [O04.5](#) Genital tract and pelvic infection following (induced) termination of pregnancy
 - [O04.6](#) Delayed or excessive hemorrhage following (induced) termination of pregnancy
 - [O04.7](#) Embolism following (induced) termination of pregnancy
 - [O04.8](#) (Induced) termination of pregnancy with other and unspecified complications
 - [O04.80](#) (Induced) termination of pregnancy with unspecified complications
 - [O04.81](#) Shock following (induced) termination of pregnancy
 - [O04.82](#) Renal failure following (induced) termination of pregnancy
 - [O04.83](#) Metabolic disorder following (induced) termination of pregnancy
 - [O04.84](#) Damage to pelvic organs following (induced) termination of pregnancy
 - [O04.85](#) Other venous complications following (induced) termination of pregnancy
 - [O04.86](#) Cardiac arrest following (induced) termination of pregnancy
 - [O04.87](#) Sepsis following (induced) termination of pregnancy
 - [O04.88](#) Urinary tract infection following (induced) termination of pregnancy
 - [O04.89](#) (Induced) termination of pregnancy with other complications

It may be informative to investigate the relevant ICD-10 codes that are seen in the emergency departments of the hospitals in South Carolina, to get an idea of how many of these cases there are, though classification can vary from physician to physician.

If I can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

Lynn Smith, R.N.

attachment