



Australian Government
Australian Institute of
Health and Welfare

AIHW



Appendix L

Glossary

Term	Meaning
Abnormal uterine bleeding	Variation from normal menstruation, or from a normal menstrual cycle pattern. This includes abnormalities of the frequency, regularity, flow volume and duration of bleeding, intermenstrual bleeding, and unscheduled bleeding on gonadal steroids (Abnormal Uterine Bleeding) (Munro et al. 2018).
Adenomyosis	A condition where tissue similar to the lining of the uterus grows in the muscle layer of the uterus (Healthdirect 2024).
Contraception	Commonly known as 'birth control', the act of preventing pregnancy using pharmaceutical, procedural or behavioural methods (Bansode et al. 2023). Of note, 'contraceptives' – methods or devices used to prevent pregnancy – are commonly used for purposes other than pregnancy prevention. Use of the word 'contraception' in this report refers to contraceptive methods and devices used for any reason, including and beyond pregnancy prevention.
Dysmenorrhea	Painful menstruation, often referred to as period pain. It can be from menstruation alone - primary dysmenorrhea, or as a result of an underlying cause - secondary dysmenorrhea (Christensen 2024).
Early menopause	Menopause occurring between 40-45 years of age is called early menopause, with a reported prevalence of 12% (AMS 2022).
Endometriosis	An inflammatory disease where tissue similar to the lining of the uterus grows in other parts of the body (Endometriosis Australia 2023).
Equity	The absence of unfair, avoidable, or remediable differences among groups of people, whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically, geographically (WHO 2025a).
Health care provider (HCP)	An individual who practises a profession relating to the provision of health care. Health care providers may be required to maintain profession-specific registration with a national board under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme or be self-regulated. A health care provider may also be referred to as a health practitioner, clinician or profession-specific description (ACSQHC, 2025).
Heavy menstrual bleeding (HMB)	A type of abnormal uterine bleeding. Also known as menorrhagia, HMB is excessive menstrual bleeding which interferes with physical, social, emotional and/or material quality of life (Committee on Adolescent Health Care 2019)
Incidence	The number of new cases (of an illness or event, and so on) in a given period.

Term	Meaning
Intersectionality	<p>Refers to the ways in which different aspects of a person’s identity can expose them to overlapping forms of discrimination and marginalisation.</p> <p>For example, gender inequity results in women having fewer opportunities for living in a safe and equal society where they enjoy equal power, can access resources and opportunities and are treated with dignity, respect and fairness. This can be compounded by other forms of disadvantage or discrimination that people may experience on the basis of Aboriginality, age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation, occupation or other attributes (DoHAC 2021).</p>
Long acting reversible contraception (LARC)	<p>A term used to refer to contraceptives that are highly effective at preventing pregnancy, are long acting and are reversible when removed. The term LARC is usually used to refer specifically to intrauterine devices (both copper and hormonal) and the implant, and this is how it is used in this report. We note that some researchers also include DMPA injections as LARCs.</p>
Medication/ Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTOP)	<p>In Australia MTOP involves taking two medications, mifepristone and misoprostol, marketed as MS-2 Step. In Australia, MTOP is most often used to refer to an Early Medical Abortion (EMA), which is the approved use of MS-2 Step up to 63 days gestation.</p> <p>Internationally, as endorsed by the WHO, mifepristone and misoprostol are often used up to 12 weeks’ gestation.</p> <p>In Australia, after 63 days gestation, mifepristone and/or misoprostol may also be used to medically induce a TOP, commonly referred to as a medical induction (of labour).</p>
Medically Induced Menopause (MIM)	<p>Medically Induced Menopause is when menopause happens because of surgery or treatment, rather than naturally. It happens earlier than you would normally have gone through menopause and is the direct result of an operation or medicine (Inherited Cancers n.d)</p>
Menopause	<p>Menopause refers to the final menstrual period and is said to have occurred when there have been no menstrual periods for one year. The average age of menopause in Australian women is 51 years (range 45-55 years) (AMS 2022).</p>
Menopausal Hormone Therapy (MHT)	<p>MHT are hormones that are prescribed during the menopause transition and menopause to alleviate oestrogen deficiency symptoms such as hot flushes, mood swings, vaginal dryness and to prevent or treat osteoporosis (AMS 2022).</p>

Term	Meaning
Miscarriage (also referred to as 'spontaneous abortion' or 'threatened abortion')	The involuntary, spontaneous loss of an intrauterine pregnancy prior to 20 weeks' gestation. This includes complete, incomplete, missed, threatened and recurrent miscarriage (as defined by RANZCOG 2025).
MS-2 Step	The marketed name of the combined regimen of (TGA approved) misoprostol and mifepristone.
Perimenopause	Perimenopause refers to the time from the onset of a change in menstrual cycle pattern or onset of menopausal symptoms, through to one year after the last menstrual period. The average duration is 4-6 years with onset in the fifth decade of life (40's) (AMS 2022). It is also referred to as the menopause transition (AMS 2023).
Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS)	A multi-system condition that has metabolic, reproductive, psychological and dermatological features (Teede et al. 2023).
Pregnancy loss	The unplanned loss of a pregnancy before 20 weeks' gestation, including miscarriage, ectopic and molar pregnancies.
Premature Ovarian Insufficiency (POI)	Loss of ovarian function in women younger than 40 years of age affecting approximately 4% of women. In most women, POI occurs spontaneously, and the cause is unknown. POI was previously referred to as premature ovarian failure; however, the preferred term is now premature (or primary) ovarian insufficiency (AMS 2022).
Prevalence	The number or proportion (of cases, instances, and so forth) in a population at a given time.
Priority populations	Different groups within society who experience a disproportionate burden of disease, leading to differences in health outcomes and life expectancy (DoHAC 2021).
Procedural/surgical termination of pregnancy (STOP)	A procedure, performed by a trained health professional, to remove pregnancy tissue from the uterus. Can be done using a suction (up until about 14 weeks gestation) or a dilation and evacuation (D & E) (often used after 14 weeks gestation) (Healthdirect 2025).
Recurrent miscarriage	Two or more miscarriages in pregnancies up to 20 weeks' gestation (whether or not a gestational sac is present and whether or not the miscarriages are consecutive) (RANZCOG 2025).

Term	Meaning
Self-managed abortion	'Self-managed abortion involves any action that is taken to end a pregnancy outside of the formal healthcare system'. Someone self-managing abortion may be supported by health professionals at different stages. Self-managed abortion can include, but is not always, unsafe abortion (Verma & Grossman 2023).
Sexual and reproductive health	Experiencing sexual and reproductive health means that a person has complete physical, mental and social well-being in all matters relating to their reproductive system and its functions. In everyday life, this means that people are able to have satisfying and safer sex lives, to have healthy pregnancies and births, and decide if, when and how often to have children. (WHO 2025b)
Socio-ecological model	The socio-ecological model of health "states that health is affected by the interaction between the characteristics of the individual, the community, and the environment that includes the physical, social, and political components." It is often characterised by nesting circles placing the individual at the centre and aspects of the environment around them. (Kilanowski 2017)
Termination of pregnancy (TOP)	Commonly called 'abortion', involves intentionally ending a pregnancy by removal or expulsion of the embryo or foetus and placenta from the uterus.
Unsafe abortion	Self-management or attempted self-induction of abortion using unsafe or invasive methods, including healthcare avoidance for complications of self-managed abortion and visiting untrained abortion providers (Verma & Grossman 2023). Unsafe abortion is a leading cause of maternal mortality and morbidity in contexts where abortion access is highly restricted (WHO 2024).

Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AHPF	Australian Health Performance Framework
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
EPAS	Early Pregnancy Assessment Service
GP	General Practitioner
HCP	Health Care Provider
HMB	Heavy Menstrual Bleeding
LARC	Long Acting Reversible Contraception
LGBTIQA+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Gender Diverse, Intersex, Queer/ Questioning, Asexual
MF	Monitoring Framework
MHT	Menopausal Hormone Therapy
MIM	Medically Induced Menopause
MTOP	Medication/medical Termination of Pregnancy
NMEAG	National Miscarriage Expert Advisory Group
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PBS	Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
PCOS	Polycystic Ovary Syndrome
PL	Pregnancy Loss
POI	Premature Ovarian Insufficiency
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
STOP	Surgical termination of pregnancy
TOP	Termination of Pregnancy
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

Data Sources

ALSWH	Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health
ANZARD	Australian and New Zealand Assisted Reproduction Database
ASHR	The Australian Study of Health and Relationships
HILDA	Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia
LSAC	Longitudinal Study of Australian Children
MBS	Medicare Benefits Scheme
NCADC	National Congenital Anomalies Data Collection
NESWTDC	National Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Collection
NHDH	National Health Data Hub
NHMD	National Hospital Morbidity Database
NNAPEDCD	National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database
NPHEd	National Public Hospital Establishments Database
NPMDC	National Perinatal Mortality Data Collection
PATH	The Personality and Total Health Through Life
PEPP Talk	Periods, Pain and Endometriosis
SSASH	The Australian Secondary Students and Sexual Health Study



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