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Pharmacy Law & Ethics
Chapter 11 : Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act and Rules

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Chapter 11
Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act and Rules

→ The Medical Termination of pregnancy Act 1971 and Rules 1975 and regulations 1975 set standads for certain cases of Pregnancy termination by the registered medical Practitioners and related matters

Objectives

- To prevent unsafe abortion , which causes death of women.
- to prevent unnecessary abortion.
- to legalise abortion services.

Conditions in which Termination of pregnancy is allowed are Following :

- A woman can medically terminate her pregnancy if there is a risk to her physical or mental health.
- or if there are foetal malformation (body parts not formed correctly).
- or if she became pregnant due to failure of any contraceptive method or device.
- or if she became pregnant as a result of rape.

Opinion required for termination of pregnancy

- Pregnancy termination up to 20 weeks of gestation the opinion of one Registered medical practitioner is required.
- Two register medical practitioner 's opinion are required for termination of a pregnancy between 20-24 weeks of gestation.
- State level medical board 's opinion is required for termination of a pregnancy after 24 weeks of gestation if there are significant foetal abnormalities.

Place where pregnancy may be terminated

- A hospital established or maintained by government.
- or a place for the time being approved for the purpose of termination of pregnancy by government.

Salient features of Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act and Rules :

→ The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 is an Indian law that regulates the conditions under which a pregnancy can be terminated. Here are some of the salient features of the MTP Act, 1971 :

- **Legalization of Abortion :** The MTP Act legalized abortion in India, subject to certain conditions.
- **Conditions for Abortion :** The MTP Act allows for abortion if the pregnancy poses a risk to the physical or mental health of the mother, if there is a risk of the child being born with physical or mental abnormalities, or if the pregnancy is a result of rape or failure of contraception.
- **Time Limit for Abortion :** The Act permits abortion up to 20 weeks of pregnancy. However, in certain cases, such as when the woman's life is in danger or in case of fetal abnormalities, abortion can be carried out beyond the 20-week limit.
- **Who can Perform Abortions :** The Act permits only registered medical practitioners to perform abortions. In addition, the Act requires that certain qualifications and experience be met by the medical practitioner performing the abortion.
- **Consent :** The Act requires that the woman seeking an abortion must give her informed consent, and the consent of the spouse, if married, is also required in certain cases.
- **Confidentiality :** The Act ensures confidentiality for women seeking an abortion, and prohibits disclosure of the identity of the woman seeking an abortion, except in certain circumstances.
- **Establishment of Committees :** The Act mandates the establishment of committees to oversee the implementation of the law and to ensure that the procedure is being carried out safely and legally.
- **Penalties :** The Act provides for penalties for non-compliance with the provisions of the law, including imprisonment and fines.