Summary of therapeutic termination of pregnancy

Clinical assessment
- Confirm pregnancy
- Medical history
- Psychosocial history
- Pregnancy circumstances
  - Refer as appropriate
  - Discuss fetal autopsy if clinically indicated
- If < 18 years, consider risk of harm and mandatory reporting requirements

Examination/Investigations
- Determine gestational age
- Consider ectopic pregnancy
- Routine antenatal bloods
- Consider cervico-vaginal swabs
- Offer opportunistic health care:
  - Pap smear
  - Sexual health check
  - Rubella titre
  - Smoking cessation advice

Information
- Provide accurate, non-judgemental, easy to understand information on:
  - Options for the pregnancy
  - Methods of termination
  - Post termination care

Coordinate referrals
- Offer confidential non-judgemental counselling
- Offer formal mental health referral if required
- Refer to other services as required (e.g. private service providers)

Facility approvals
- Observe facility level approval requirements
- Consider complex case requirements

Documentation
- Document the decision making process thoroughly

Legal test
- Is termination necessary:
  - To prevent serious danger to the woman’s physical or mental health and
  - The danger of the medical or surgical treatment is not out of proportion to the danger intended to be averted
- Consider the woman’s psychosocial circumstances

Pre-termination assessment
- Confirm pregnancy
- Medical history
- Psychosocial history
- Pregnancy circumstances
  - Refer as appropriate
  - Discuss fetal autopsy if clinically indicated
- If < 18 years, consider risk of harm and mandatory reporting requirements

Examination/Investigations
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- Refer to other services as required (e.g. private service providers)

Facility approvals
- Observe facility level approval requirements
- Consider complex case requirements

Documentation
- Document the decision making process thoroughly

Surgical or medical procedure
- Consider:
  - Gestation of pregnancy
  - Clinical indications
  - Preferences of the woman
  - Service level capability and expertise

Consent
- Consider issues of capacity
- Consider adequacy of information provision and counselling
- If < 14 years:
  - Involve paediatric services
  - Assess mandatory reporting requirements

Coordinate referrals
- Consider referrals for specialist care, termination procedure, psychological support/counselling

Follow-up
- Arrange follow-up
- Discuss contraception

Considerations
- Histopathology
- RhD immunoglobulin
- Analgesia requirements
- Provide after care advice
- Discuss contraceptive options
- Provide advice on accessing psychological care
- Ensure follow-up
- Refer as required