

Politics Over Medicine?

What's the Hang Up with RU-486?

*by Lourdes Rivera, National Health Law Program*

*The [National Women's Health Network](#) provided extensive input into this article.*  
August 2000

The status of the drug mifepristone (previously known as RU-486) has been in the news recently. Mifepr

Mifepristone is an antiprogestin which, when used in combination with the prostaglandin drug misoprost

Early options for abortion have been slowly expanding in the United States in the last few years, but mife

Given mifepristone's rapid approval in other countries, its absence seems notable in the U.S., where wo

Since then, the Population Council has conducted a clinical trial of mifepristone in the United States and

In 1996, after reviewing the clinical trial data, the FDA issued a statement that mifepristone was safe and

In an unexpected turn of events, the FDA issued another list of questions and demands before it would g

Groups, such as the National Women's Health Network, and many medical and scientific experts who are

Negotiations are continuing with the FDA. However, the agency is running out of time to approve the drug.

See also, [Shari Roan, The Abortion Pill: Finally at Hand? Los Angeles Times](#) (Special Health Section)