

Dear Sir

I am writing to register my horror at the thought that Medicare is or is considering funding Second Trimester Abortions. I Strongly believe that Medicare should not be used to pay for abortions for eugenic reasons. The interpretation of a gross fetal abnormality can be very vague, as minor as a missing finger or cleft palette that is either not major or correctable after birth.

Another reason that has been used for such a late abortion has been 'psycho-social' reason. With modern medicine pregnancy is now seldom or never life-threatening. Medicare should not be used to pay for abortions for "psycho-social" reasons. An induced live birth is safer for both the mother and the child.

Thirdly, Abortions in the second trimester are cruel. The unborn child is well-developed and it takes a painful act of violence to kill the baby and if allowed the baby would scream and cry. This is not what Medicare is for. The benefit is payable for abortions performed using the barbaric partial birth abortion method (delivery of the living child except the head followed by the piercing and crushing of the skull) injection of potassium chloride into the baby's heart or induced delivery of a live baby followed by death by abandonment and neglect.

Abortion has adverse effects on women's health. It doesn't make sense for Medicare to fund a procedure that kills a baby and harms its mother. Recent research shows that abortion is associated with increased risk of suicide depression and other adverse mental health outcomes. It also increases the risk of breast cancer (especially second trimester abortions) and of miscarriage and premature delivery of subsequent pregnancies.

It is for all the above reasons that I object strongly to our government funding the destruction of human life when the delivery of the child could mean that childless families could adopt them and give them the love that the birth mother is unable or unwilling to provide. As a mother of 3 children I know that even though pregnancy and childbirth is uncomfortable and painful I could never consider the psychological effects of disposing of a child that had started to move and make its presence known to me. It is inconceivable that Medicare is funding this in any way.

Regards  
Michelle Kirkby