

PROVINCIAL LEGAL SNAPSHOT

New Brunswick

Abortion law, funding, and access — one-page reference

As of Jul 13, 2026

Research completed Jul 13, 2026

Confidence: high



● Abortion is legal at every stage of pregnancy — Canada has had no criminal abortion law since 1988 — but funding gaps limit access in this jurisdiction.

LEGAL LIMIT	None (nationwide)	OFFERED LOCALLY TO	14 weeks (policy)	✓ INSURED SERVICE	Yes	✓ CLINIC ABORTIONS FUNDED	Yes
✓ MIFEGYMISO COVERED FOR ALL	Yes	✓ TELEHEALTH	Available	SAFE-ACCESS ZONES	No law	✓ RECIPROCAL BILLING	Covered
TRAVEL ASSISTANCE	No	INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTION	No	PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT	Not required	MINOR CONSENT	Mature minor common law
PENDING CHANGE	See below						

§ Jurisdiction overview

New Brunswick publicly funds both medication and procedural abortion for all Medicare holders, but procedural services are limited to three hospitals in two cities with no free-standing clinics.

Medical Services Payment Act, RSNB 1973, c M-7 · General Regulation - Medical Services Payment Act, NB Reg 84-20 · Changes announced to fund surgical abortions outside hospitals (GNB News Release, November 7, 2024)

▣ Funding & coverage

Both procedural and medication abortion are insured services under the New Brunswick Medical Services Payment Act for all residents with a valid Medicare card, without restriction to hospital settings as of November 2024.

Medical Services Payment Act, RSNB 1973, c M-7, s 1 · Changes announced to fund surgical abortions outside hospitals (GNB News Release, November 7, 2024) · Health Canada, Question Period Note: Abortion Access (2024)

CLINIC VS. HOSPITAL FUNDING

The November 2024 repeal of Regulation 84-20, Schedule 2(a.1) ended the decades-old exclusion of clinic-based procedural abortions from Medicare coverage, though no community clinics have yet begun offering the service.

TRAVEL & OUT-OF-PROVINCE CARE

New Brunswick is one of only two provinces with no public medical travel subsidy program; patients who must travel for an abortion bear their own transportation costs, though limited hostel and meal allowances exist for out-of-province care.

● Where services actually are

Procedural abortion is available at three hospitals — the Moncton Hospital, Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont University Hospital Centre (Moncton), and Chaleur Regional Hospital (Bathurst) — while medication abortion can be prescribed by any physician or nurse practitioner province-wide. Procedural abortion is routinely available up to 14 weeks in Moncton and 13 weeks 6 days in Bathurst, with Moncton Hospital occasionally able to accommodate patients up to 18 weeks depending on physician availability — these are service-policy limits, not legal ones.

Vitalité Health Network, 'Abortion' service page · Horizon Health Network, 'Family Planning Clinic – Abortion Clinic' · GNB News Release, 'New central phone service to support self-referral for abortion services' (March 11, 2026)

MINORS

Under the Medical Consent of Minors Act, a minor aged 16 or older consents as an adult; a minor under 16 may consent if a health professional determines they understand the nature and consequences and the treatment is in their best interests.

SAFE-ACCESS ZONES

New Brunswick has no statutory safe-access-zone or buffer-zone law protecting abortion facilities, providers, or patients from protest, harassment, or obstruction.

Recent changes

Mar 2026	The CPSNB updated its Conscientious Objection professional standard (version 3), joining standards from other Atlantic provinces.
Mar 2026	The government introduced amendments to the Midwifery Act to expand midwives' scope of practice to include care throughout child-bearing years; the bill does not explicitly add Mifegymiso prescribing but may enable it through regulation.
Mar 2026	New Brunswick launched a centralized self-referral phone line (1-844-806-9205) for abortion services, allowing patients to navigate options and book appointments through a single toll-free number operated by Horizon Health Network.
Nov 2024	Premier Susan Holt's newly elected Liberal government approved changes to Regulation 84-20, removing abortion from Schedule 2 and allowing Medicare to fund surgical abortions outside hospitals for the first time in decades.
Jan 2024	Clinic 554 in Fredericton — the last free-standing abortion clinic in New Brunswick — closed permanently, eliminating all community-based procedural abortion services in the province.
Jan 2021	The Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) filed a constitutional challenge against Regulation 84-20 in the New Brunswick Court of Queen's Bench, alleging that the hospital-only funding restriction violated the Charter and the Canada Health Act.
Mar 2020	The federal government began deducting Canada Health Transfer payments from New Brunswick (\$140,000 initially) for patient charges at Clinic 554, the private abortion clinic in Fredericton, for violations of the Canada Health Act's prohibition on user charges.

Pending changes to watch

Bill: An Act to Amend the Midwifery Act (introduced March 18, 2026) Legislation · Introduced; not yet passed as of July 2025 If passed, would expand midwives' scope to include care throughout child-bearing years.
Universal contraception coverage (2024 Liberal throne speech promise) Policy · Commitment reaffirmed by Health Minister John Dornan (November 2025); no bill introduced as of July 2025 Would reduce unintended pregnancies and thus demand for abortion. Dornan has said the province will proceed with or without a federal pharmacare agreement. No legislative mechanism has been specified.

Key authorities

Medical Services Payment Act Medical Services Payment Act, RSNB 1973, c M-7 Defines 'entitled services' and creates the framework under which abortion is insured in New Brunswick; the regulation under this Act was the mechanism for the decades-long hospital-only funding restriction.
Regulation 84-20 (General Regulation) General Regulation - Medical Services Payment Act, NB Reg 84-20 Formerly contained Schedule 2, para (a.1), which deemed abortion not an entitled service unless performed in an approved hospital.
Medical Consent of Minors Act Medical Consent of Minors Act, RSNB 1976, c M-6.1 Sets the minor-consent framework: age 16 for presumptive adult consent, and a codified mature-minor rule under s. 3(1) for those under 16 based on capacity and best interests.
Fatal Accidents Act Fatal Accidents Act, RSNB 2012, c 104 Defines 'deceased' as a 'person,' consistent with the born-alive rule; under Canadian jurisprudence, no wrongful-death claim lies for a fetus.
R v Morgentaler R v Morgentaler, [1988] 1 SCR 30 The foundational Supreme Court decision striking down Criminal Code s. 251 as violating s. 7 of the Charter; the reason no criminal abortion prohibition exists in Canada.

Generated from the structured legal focused deep-research record for NB, Canada (research completed 2026-07-13). This snapshot condenses a much larger sourced dataset — full citations, quoted statutory text, and plain-language explanations are in the full New Brunswick survey. This document has not been reviewed by a lawyer and should not be used as legal advice.