

**Statements on funding and competing interests**

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**Competing interests** None identified.

**Author's note**

This article formed part of a dissertation for an MA in Clinical Education at Edge Hill College, University of Lancaster (author was awarded a distinction).

**Editor's note**

Two further articles by the same author to be published in the Journal in 2008 will explore the process of obtaining consent for patient involvement in doctor training, and look at what motivates patients to become involved.

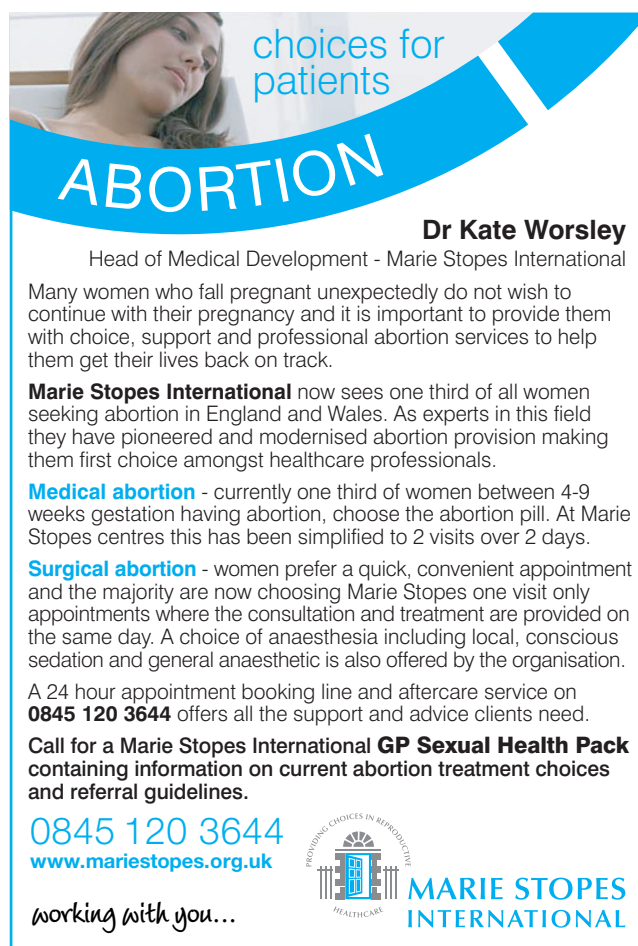
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