



LIVE

 **54°**
Charlotte, NC

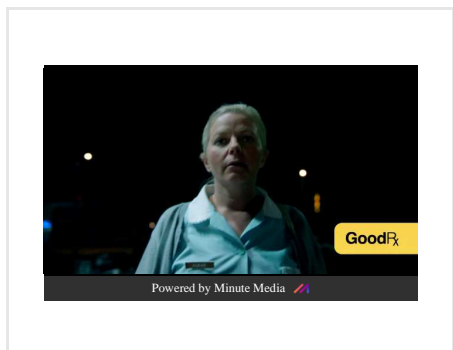
BREAKING NEWS

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CLOSE



Charlotte abortion clinic allowed to reopen



For the second time in six years, a southeast Charlotte abortion clinic has reopened a short time after the state forced it to shut down because of safety issues, most recently the improper administration of a drug that terminates pregnancies.

CHARLOTTE, N.C. -- For the second time in six years, a southeast Charlotte abortion clinic has reopened a short time after the state forced it to shut down because of safety issues, most recently the improper administration of a drug that terminates pregnancies.

A Preferred Woman s Health Center on Latrobe Drive will be allowed to open at 9 a.m. Wednesday after the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services lifted its order suspending clinic services, according to an official with the state agency who provided information on background.



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The clinic s reopening comes only four days after it was ordered to suspend operations. In April state investigators determined that clinic staffers were orally administering the drug methotrexate, which is used to induce abortions. The drug is meant to be injected, according to the state report.

But Tuesday, the state Department of Health and Human Services received documentation that the inappropriate administration of medication would be discontinued, according to the department official.


The clinic also submitted a quality improvement plan to the state, the official said.

The state department has temporarily shut down the Charlotte clinic only to have it reopen shortly thereafter in the past, according to the official and a state document. In February 2007, state investigators found as many as 16 safety and regulatory issues at the clinic, according to a letter DHHS sent the clinic.

Attempts to reach clinic owner Lois Turner were unsuccessful Tuesday.

A Preferred Woman s Health Center is one of three clinics that provide abortions in Charlotte, according to the National Abortion Federation, a professional association representing abortion providers. Planned Parenthood, which refers women to local abortion providers, does not refer patients to A Preferred Woman s Health Center, spokeswoman Melissa Reed said.

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