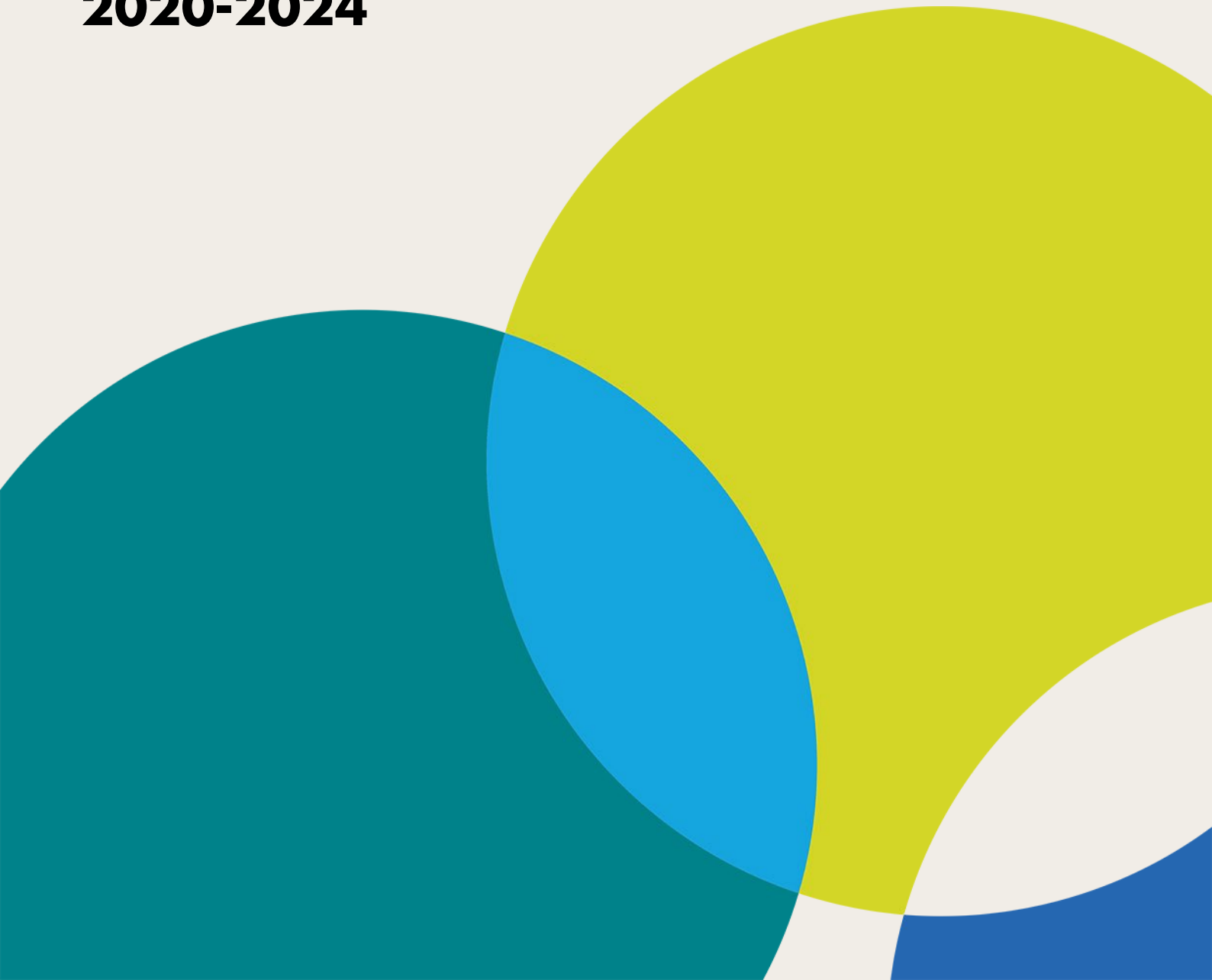




Human
Fertilisation &
Embryology
Authority

Our strategy

2020-2024



Our vision

Our vision is...




Regulating for excellence: shaping the future of fertility care and treatment

As we approach the 30th anniversary of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority’s (HFEA) creation, we continue to put everyone who uses fertility services at the heart of everything we do - patients, partners, donors, donor-conceived people and surrogates. We want them all to receive excellent care, support and information. The importance of this has been highlighted during the Covid-19 pandemic, when safe high quality care, good information and support have been paramount.

People’s experiences differ, based on their individual circumstances. Our focus will be on providing the best, most effective care for everyone, recognising the diverse family structures in which treatment and donation take place. We want to ensure people can access the right information at the right time. As science and society advance, we will shape and respond to future change, helping ensure that the translation from innovative treatment to everyday care is ethical and responsible.

As the regulator of fertility services and research involving human embryos, we aim to be effective and efficient, providing consistent oversight and advice to clinic staff and researchers.

Our ambitions for 2020-2024 are summarised in the table below:

 <p>The best care</p>	 <p>The right information</p>	 <p>Shaping the future</p>
<p>Effective and ethical care that is scientifically robust, accompanied by excellent support, and provided by well-led clinics.</p>	<p>Accurate and useful information that is provided at the right time.</p>	<p>Proactively embracing new developments in the changing fields of modern family creation, genetics, and artificial intelligence.</p>
<p>A transparent evidence base so that patients can make informed choices, and more research and innovation to improve the evidence base.</p>	<p>Improved information at the earliest (pre-treatment) stage, with new information flows to support primary care professionals and patients.</p>	<p>Engaging with and facilitating debates on changes in science, law and society, integrating new developments into our work.</p>
<p>Improved recognition by clinics of partners’ importance in the care process.</p>	<p>Access to relevant and impartial information for all – particularly about the evidence base, add-ons and treatment options.</p>	<p>Preparing for future legislative and operational changes, to ensure we remain a modern, effective and responsive regulator.</p>

Engagement, partnering and collaboration

As a public body, we value working collaboratively with organisations and professional bodies with whom we have shared interests.

We have well-established relationships with stakeholder groups and professional bodies, and we plan to build further partnerships with other organisations over the coming years.

Engagement with fertility clinics is about much more than satisfying the requirements of the compliance regime. We know we are most successful when we involve the sector and the professional bodies working within and around it, and when we listen to patients.

Partnership working helps us to have the most positive effect on the quality of care in clinics, and to magnify our impact, even though we work with limited resources.

Through dialogue and partnership, we want to improve the accessibility and positioning of accurate and timely information about fertility issues and treatment.

The best care



Aim: Effective and ethical care for everyone.

Objectives	We want	We will
Treatment that is effective, ethical and scientifically robust.	Individualised treatment and care that is safe, responsible, consistent and based on clear values.	Regulate effectively, transparently and consistently, and provide clinics with more comparative information about performance to encourage improved care. Use our data to reduce variations between clinics (eg, for success rates, and levels of compliance) and collaboratively define best practices.
	Clinics that are well led and see compliance and the provision of high quality care, including excellent support, as good business.	Continue our dialogue with clinic leaders, engaging with a representative cross-section of the sector (NHS and private clinics, including groups). Continue to ensure clinics are compliant and offer good support.
	A transparent and accurate evidence base, to ensure that patients can make informed choices about their treatment. More research and innovation to improve the evidence base and outcomes.	Work collaboratively to encourage and support more clinical and data research, including the usage of our Register data. Encourage clinics to use add-ons responsibly.
Improved recognition of partners' importance (of the same or opposite sex) in the care process.	Partners to be involved in care and treatment choices throughout the process. Clinics to recognise that partner care is a core part of the service they provide.	Focus strongly on the care of partners and the provision of improved information for them by clinics. Highlight accurate information and encourage dialogue about male (as well as female) fertility issues.

The right information



Aim: To ensure that people can access the right information at the right time.

Objectives	We want	We will
<p>Improved access to information at the earliest (pre-treatment) stage.</p>	<p>Right-moment information provision from the outset for patients, partners, donors and surrogates.</p>	<p>Create new information flows to support and engage with GPs, practice nurses and patients.</p> <p>Work in partnership with key organisations such as the Royal Colleges to develop or link to materials for primary care professionals to help them access key knowledge and learning to help them guide patients.</p> <p>Develop materials to support people in making early decisions about treatment, donation and surrogacy.</p>
<p>High quality information to support decision-making during and after treatment or donation.</p>	<p>Patients, partners, professionals, surrogates, donors, donor-conceived people and their families all to have access to relevant and impartial information.</p>	<p>Position and promote our information so it is easy to find by everyone including professionals.</p> <p>Publish more information about the evidence-base for treatments and add-ons.</p> <p>Keep our information up to date so that it explains new treatment options.</p>

Shaping the future



Aim: To embrace and engage with changes in the law, science and society.

Objectives	We want	We will
Responding to scientific and social changes, particularly in modern family creation and the fields of genetics and artificial intelligence (AI).	<p>Diverse fertility service users and professionals to have information that is up to date and relevant on developments such as genome research and editing, DNA tests and screening, home genetic testing and AI.</p> <p>Clinics to assess innovative treatments (including add-ons), and to encourage responsible innovation that improves current practice.</p>	<p>Engage with and facilitate debates within the fertility sector on emerging topics, working in partnership with relevant bodies, and providing up-to-date information.</p> <p>Recognise scientific evidence and societal changes, integrate these into our work, and encourage take-up of effective new techniques into clinical practice.</p>
Preparing for future legislative and operational changes.	To ensure the HFEA and clinics are prepared for future changes in the fertility field, and for any legislative changes.	<p>Prepare to inform any future Parliamentary and public debate and implement any agreed changes.</p> <p>Be responsive to the changing nature of patient and public concerns.</p> <p>Work with the sector to ensure preparedness for ensuing changes.</p>
	To be a modern effective regulator and continue to respond to changes in our operating environment.	Respond to changes such as the growth in donor-conceived people eligible to make 'opening the register' (OTR) requests from 2021 and 2023.

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