

## Directions given under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 as amended

### Multiple births

Ref: 0003  
Version: 1

These Directions are:	GENERAL DIRECTIONS
Sections of the Act providing for these Directions:	Sections 12 (1) (d) and (g); 13 (2) (a), (b) and (f)
These Directions come into force on:	1 October 2009
These Directions remain in force:	Until revoked
This version issued on:	1 October 2009

### Recording information on the number of eggs or embryos transferred

1. Licensed centres must maintain the following records in respect of each licensed treatment cycle in which three embryos or four eggs are placed in a woman:
  - (a) a detailed record in each patient's medical records explaining the reasons for transferring three embryos or four eggs; and
  - (b) a summary log to include every treatment cycle involving the placing in a woman of three embryos or four eggs in the format (form nos.0003A and 0003B) set out in the Schedule to these Directions.
2. Licensed centres holding any of the records referred to in paragraph 1(a) and 1(b) above must be able to produce hard copies of those records upon request from an HFEA member or employee.

### Multiple Births Minimisation Strategy

3. Licensed centres must maintain:
  - (a) a documentary record of their Multiple Births Minimisation Strategy ("the strategy");
  - (b) the outcome of regular audits and evaluations of the progress and effectiveness of the strategy ("the audit"); and
  - (c) a summary log of cases in which multiple embryos have been transferred to a patient who meets the criteria for single embryo transfer as set out in the strategy.
4. Licensed centres must be able to produce hard copies of those records upon request from an HFEA member or employee.
5. The form of the strategy must be as follows:

(a) a section identifying suitable cases for single embryo transfer (SET), including criteria in relation to embryo assessment and patient selection criteria;

(b) a section identifying how the centre intends to reduce its annual multiple birth rate and to ensure that it does not exceed the maximum rate of 24% of the annual live birth rate for the centre;

(c) a section for centres that are licensed to provide GIFT which should define the kinds of patients to whom GIFT might be an appropriate form of treatment and criteria in relation to appropriate egg transfer numbers. The multiple birth rates from GIFT will form part of the centre's overall annual multiple birth rate, which should remain below the maximum annual rate set by the Authority; and

(d) a section setting out any other relevant matters that the centre wishes to include as part of its strategy.

6. The form of the summary log must be as set out in form 0003/C in the Schedule to these Directions.

7. Where multiple embryos have been transferred to a patient who meets the criteria for single embryo transfer as set out in the strategy, the licensed centre must record this fact in the patient's medical records together with:

(a) a clear explanation of the reasons for transferring more than one embryo in that particular case; and

(b) a note confirming that the risks associated with multiple pregnancy have been fully discussed with the patient.

*Ruth Fasht*

Ruth Fasht OBE

1 July 2009

Chair of the Compliance Committee in accordance with delegated powers granted by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority on 17 December 2008.

Version control	
Directions name:	Multiple births
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Chair's letter reference:	

**Form 0003/A**

Summary of transfers of three embryos for the period \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ to \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

**Centre Number**

<b>Patient number</b>	<b>Date of transfer</b>	<b>Reason for three embryo transfer</b>	<b>Number of fetal hearts detected in early scans</b>	<b>Outcome of pregnancy</b>

**Form 0003/B**

Summary of transfers of four eggs for the period \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ to \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

**Centre Number**

<b>Patient number</b>	<b>Date of transfer</b>	<b>Reason for four egg transfer</b>	<b>Number of fetal hearts detected in early scans</b>	<b>Outcome of pregnancy</b>

**Form 0003/C**

Summary log of cases in which multiple embryos have been transferred to a patient who meets the criteria for single embryo transfer, as set out in the centre's minimisation strategy, for the period \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ to \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

*(To be completed by the Person Responsible)*

**Name**

**Centre**

**Centre number**

<b>Patient number</b>	<b>Date of transfer</b>	<b>Reason for &gt;1 embryo transfer</b>	<b>Was the patient informed of the risks of multiple pregnancy?</b>	<b>Number of fetal hearts detected in early scan</b>	<b>Outcome of pregnancy</b>