

# 21. Intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI)

## This guidance note contains:

### HFEA guidance

- Information for people seeking treatment with ICSI
- The use of ICSI

 Refer to principles 5, 7 and 9

### Other legislation, professional guidelines and information



## HFEA guidance

### Information for people seeking treatment with ICSI

- 21.1** Before treatment is offered, the centre should give the woman seeking treatment and her partner, if applicable, specific information about the risks of ICSI which might lead to:
- (a) a reduced number of eggs being available for treatment (compared to IVF), due to eggs being immature or damaged by the process of ICSI
  - (b) children conceived having inherited genetic, epigenetic or chromosomal abnormalities (including cystic fibrosis gene mutations, imprinting disorders, sex chromosome defects and heritable sub-fertility).
- 21.2** Where appropriate, centres should also provide patients with information about the possibility of genetic testing of the male partner.

See also guidance note:

- **4 – Information to be provided prior to consent**

### The use of ICSI

- 21.3** The centre's clinical protocols should set out when ICSI can be used. The reasons for using ICSI in any particular case should be explained in the patient's medical records.
- 21.4** With respect to any ICSI programme, the centre should ensure that:
- (a) ICSI and other embryos are transferred during the same treatment cycle only in exceptional circumstances, with an upper limit of 2% of all ICSI embryo transfers,
  - (b) the circumstances justifying such a transfer are specified in the patient's notes, and
  - (c) eggs that have failed to fertilise by normal IVF or ICSI are not re-inseminated by any means.



## Other legislation, professional guidelines and information

- Association of Clinical Embryologists – Accreditation Standards and Guidelines for IVF Laboratories – [www.embryologists.org.uk/download\\_resources/accreditation\\_standards](http://www.embryologists.org.uk/download_resources/accreditation_standards)

