

# About the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority

### *Introduction*

**The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) was set up in August 1991 by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (HFE Act). The first statutory body of its type in the world, the HFEA's creation reflected public and professional interest in the potential future of human embryo research and infertility treatments, and a widespread desire for statutory regulation of all related procedures.**

**The HFEA's principal tasks are to license and monitor clinics that carry out *in vitro* fertilisation, donor insemination and human embryo research. The HFEA also regulates the storage of gametes (sperm and eggs) and embryos.**

The HFEA's statutory functions include:

- Producing an HFEA *Code of Practice* which gives guidelines to clinics about the proper conduct of HFEA licensed activities
- Maintaining a formal register of information about donors, treatments and children born from those treatments
- Providing relevant advice and information to patients, donors and clinics
- Regularly reviewing information about human embryos and any subsequent development of such embryos, and the provision of treatment services and activities governed by the HFE Act

Underlying all these activities is the HFEA's determination to safeguard the interests of patients, children, doctors, scientists, the wider public and future generations.

### **HFEA leaflets**

*Storage And Use Of Frozen Eggs*

*Egg Donation*

*Welfare Of The Child: Information For Patients*

*Welfare Of The Child: Information For GPs*

*Embryo Storage*

*Embryo Research*

*Intra-Cytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI)*

*Sperm And Egg Donors And The Law*

*Consent To The Use And Storage Of Gametes And Embryos*

*Egg Freezing Centres*

*Centres Which Carry Out IVF With Donor Eggs*

These leaflets are available free of charge from the HFEA. For further information on the work of the HFEA and a full list of HFEA resources, please contact [admin@hfea.gov.uk](mailto:admin@hfea.gov.uk) or visit the HFEA website [www.hfea.gov.uk](http://www.hfea.gov.uk)

The HFEA does not provide dedicated patient counselling services. However, the following patients support organisations offer advice:

**British Infertility Counselling Association (BICA)**

BICA aims to promote high quality, accessible counselling services for people with fertility problems. The Association offers information to patients who are seeking details of counsellors specialising in infertility.

Tel: 0114 263 1448 Website: [www.bica.net](http://www.bica.net)

**CHILD (The National Infertility Support Network)**

Provides support and the exchange of information to infertility sufferers. Campaigns to raise awareness of the impact of infertility and to improve access to treatment.

Tel: 01424 732361 Website: [www.child.org.uk](http://www.child.org.uk)

**Issue (The National Fertility Association)**

Provides factsheets, professional telephone counselling, magazines and a support network of other members.

Tel: 09050 280300 Website: [www.issue.co.uk](http://www.issue.co.uk)

**Donor Conception Network**

Provides contact and support for those who have children, or plan family creation, conceived using donated gametes through donor insemination (DI) and IVF with donor sperm or donated eggs. Also for adult offspring of donor conception.

Tel: 020 8245 4369 Website: [www.dcnetwork.org](http://www.dcnetwork.org)

**Multiple Births Foundation**

Provides professional support and information about all aspects of multiple births.

Tel: 020 8383 3519 Website: [www.multiplebirths.org.uk](http://www.multiplebirths.org.uk)

**The National Childbirth Trust**

Offers information and support in pregnancy, childbirth and early parenthood, aiming to give every parent the chance to make informed choices.

Tel: 0870 444 8707 Website: [www.nctpregnancyandbabycare.com/nct-online](http://www.nctpregnancyandbabycare.com/nct-online)

### **Daisy Network Premature Menopause Support Group**

Provides support and information for women who have gone through an early menopause. Telephone contacts are available so members can speak to others who have been through egg donation cycles, both successfully and unsuccessfully, as well as other related issues. Daisy Network publishes fact sheets and a quarterly newsletter as well as holding an annual Open Day.

Email: [membership&media@daisynetwork.org.uk](mailto:membership&media@daisynetwork.org.uk)

Website : [www.daisynetwork.org.uk](http://www.daisynetwork.org.uk)

### **ACeBabes**

Offering support during pregnancy, multiple births, parenting after infertility, donor conception for donors and recipients, decisions surrounding frozen embryos, trying for siblings or deciding to end treatment and telling the children of their conception. Providing a quarterly newsletter, sub-group news sheets, meetings, personal contacts for specific conditions and interactive website.

Tel: 01332 832558 Website: [www.acebabes.co.uk](http://www.acebabes.co.uk)

### **National Gamete Donation Trust (NGDT)**

The NGDT was founded as a registered charity in April 1998 in order to raise awareness of and seek ways to alleviate the national shortage of sperm, egg and embryo donors in the United Kingdom.

Tel: 0161 276 6000 Website: [www.ngdt.co.uk](http://www.ngdt.co.uk)

**Contact**

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