

## THE HFEA CODE OF PRACTICE (7<sup>th</sup> edition)

### Equality Impact Screening

**Aim:** Publication of HFEA Code of Practice (7<sup>th</sup> edition) giving guidance on the proper conduct of activities licensable under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as it is proposed to amend it to incorporate EU Tissues and Cells Directive) and the proper discharge of the functions of those acting in pursuance of a licence from the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority.

**Screening Procedure:** The draft text of and proposals for delivery of the revised code have been screened in relation to the seven equality categories:

- Age
- Disability
- Ethnicity
- Faith
- Gender
- Human rights
- Sexual orientation

Screening Questions	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there any evidence of higher or lower participation or uptake by different groups?</li> <li>• Have consultations with relevant groups, organisations or individuals indicated that particular policies create problems which are specific to them?</li> <li>• Is there any evidence that different groups have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to the particular policy?</li> </ul>	<p>No, not among user groups although there is lower participation in user groups from certain sectors of society owing to principled objections resulting from personal choice or faith (i.e. not as a result of regulatory constraint).</p> <p>No, although this issue to be reviewed in the light of responses to the consultation.</p> <p>No. Accessibility is potentially an issue but not concretely identified among user groups (clinics, researchers, inspectors or HFEA licence committees).</p>

**In light of the answers to the questions above, it has been decided that a full equality impact assessment is unnecessary at this stage for the following reasons:**

The Code of Practice primarily exists for the purpose of regulating assisted conception services and human embryo research. Its primary user groups are:

- licensees, who refer to it to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements,
- HFEA inspectors, who refer to it in order to investigate and report on compliance, and
- members of HFEA licence committees, who refer to it in order to determine whether there have been failures of compliance.

Although the requirements set out in the Code have an indirect effect on other stakeholders including fertility patients, donors, their families and the public in general, insofar as the Code gives effect to public policy made by the HFEA, that policy content is in each case subject to an independent development and approval process which includes appropriate consultation, impact assessment and the establishment of monitoring and evaluation arrangements.