

EXPLANATORY AND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FOR DIRECTIONS D2006/1

The following note sets out an explanation of the areas covered by the Directions, transitional arrangements, guidance on interpretation, and information about how the effects of the Authority's revised policy will be monitored and evaluated.

Donors may be reimbursed all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred within the UK in connection with gamete or embryo donation. (Directions, paragraph 3)

- Expenses claimed by donors should be incurred in connection with the process of donation (for example, the cost of travel to the centre or the cost of childcare during donation where the donor would ordinarily be caring for the child) and not merely co-incidentally at the time at which the donation takes place.
- Donors may claim reasonable expenses, (for example a standard class rail ticket by the most direct route) but not excessive expenses where these would constitute a benefit in themselves.
- A record of expenses reimbursed to the donor should be kept in the centre's records. It is expected that centres will keep a central log of all expenses and loss of earnings compensation paid to donors, which should be made available to HFEA inspectors. The log should contain the following information:
 - date of payment
 - amount of payment
 - donor (name or unique identifier)
 - reason for payment (nature of expense or loss of earnings)
 - total amount paid to this donor to date for this course/cycle of donation
- Only expenses incurred within the UK may be claimed (for example, if a donor flies into the UK in order to donate and then takes the train to the centre, the price of the flight may not be claimed back, but the price of the train ticket may).

Donors may be compensated for loss of earnings up to a daily maximum of £55.19 but with an overall limit of £250 (or equivalent in local currency) for each course of sperm donation or each cycle of egg donation. (Directions, paragraph 4)

- The centre must be satisfied, through evidence provided by the donor, with the value of earnings claimed as lost due to time spent donating.
- A record of compensation paid to donors for loss of earnings, should be kept in the centre's records. This record should be kept together with the record of expenses paid to donors in a central log (see above).

Implementation

Centres to whom this guidance applies are expected to implement the guidance from April 1, 2006.

Transitional provisions

Donors in the course of donating (who have begun a cycle of egg donation – including deferred cycles – or a course of sperm donation as defined in the Directions) at the time of implementation of these Directions should complete the cycle or course on the basis on which it was begun. New conditions will apply for all new cycles or courses of donation beginning after 1 April 2006.

Inspection

Where appropriate, HFEA Inspectors will review compliance with this guidance on the part of licensed centres from April 1, 2006. This will include review of the central log of reimbursed expenses and compensation paid to donors.

Evaluation

The HFEA proposes to review the effect of these changes no sooner than one year after implementation. Feedback from donors, patients and licensed centres will be taken into account in the course of this review and may actively be sought by the HFEA.

If you have any queries regarding this please contact Stephanie Croker by telephone on 020 7291 8239 or via e-mail at stephanie.croker@hfea.gov.uk.