



Human
Fertilisation &
Embryology
Authority

HFEA

Strategy

2020-2023

www.hfea.gov.uk

The best care

Aim: That patients, partners and donors receive evidence-based high-quality care.

Objectives	We want	We will
Treatment that is ethically and scientifically robust.	Individualised care that is safe, responsible, consistent and based on clear values.	Regulate transparently and collaboratively.
	A transparent and accurate evidence base, to inform patients' treatment choices.	Publish more information about the evidence-base for treatments and add-ons.
	Clinics that are well led and see compliance as good business and part of high-quality care.	Use our intelligence data to explore variations between clinics (eg for success rates, and levels of compliance) and define a 'gold standard' clinic.
	More research and innovation to improve outcomes.	Continue our leadership conversation with PRs, engaging with a representative cross-section of the sector (NHS and private clinics, including groups).
Improved recognition of partners' importance in the care process.	Partners to be involved in care and treatment choices throughout the process, on an equal footing with patients.	Work collaboratively to encourage more clinical and data research, including the usage of our Register data.
	Clinics to recognise that partner care is a core part of the service they provide.	Support people to do research, and encourage funding for fertility research.
		Focus strongly on the provision of improved information for, and care of, partners by clinics.
		Provide information about male fertility issues.

The right information

Aim: To ensure that people can access the right information at the right time.

Objectives

Improved access to information at the earliest stage of the treatment journey.

We want

Right-moment information provision for patients and partners.

People to be supported all the way through their journey and their choices, including at the very beginning.

Information about accessing fertility services to be transparent at the outset.

We will

Create new information flows to support and engage with GPs, practice nurses and patients.

Work in partnership with key organisations such as the Royal Colleges.

Develop a toolkit for GPs to help them access key knowledge to help them guide patients.

Develop materials to support people in making early treatment decisions.

Patients, partners, professionals, donors, donor-conceived people, their families and the wider public to have access to high quality information.

Patients to have the right information to support them in making choices.

Position and promote our information so it is easy to find.

Patients to feel supported to make difficult treatment decisions.

Keep our information up to date so that it explains any new treatment options.

Others to have access to useful and impartial information.

Continue to focus on the support patients and their partners receive at all stages of their treatment.

Shaping the future

Aim: To be ready for any changes in law, science and society.

Objectives

We want

We will

Preparing for future legislative and operational changes.

To ensure the HFEA and the sector are prepared for future changes in the fertility field, and for any legislative change.

Prepare to inform any future Parliamentary and public debate and implement any agreed changes.

To be prepared for a growth in donor-conceived people eligible to make 'opening the register' (OTR) requests from 2021 and 2023.

Work with the sector to ensure preparedness for ensuing changes.

Ensure we are organisationally ready for an increase in our OTR operations.

Responding to scientific and social changes, particularly in the fields of genetics and artificial intelligence (AI).

Patients to have information that is up to date and relevant on developments such as genome research and editing, DNA tests and screening, home genetic testing and AI.

Lead debates within the fertility sector on emerging topics, work in partnership with relevant bodies, and provide up-to-date information.

To be ready to respond to increasing numbers of complex PGD applications, and potentially new types of patients being treated in clinics.

Raise awareness about issues such as the impact of social media on anonymity.

Recognise scientific and societal changes, and integrate these into our work and the information we publish.

