

# The importance of sharing information on treatment add-ons

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# Introduction

# Chair

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# What is an 'add-on'?

### **Definition**

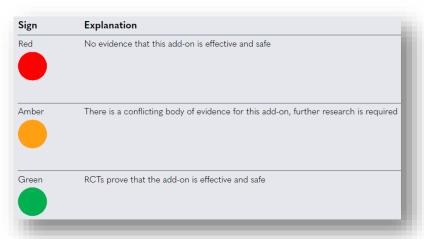
- optional extras, that are being charged for, which claim to improve the chances of having a healthy baby
- cover a range of interventions: genetic tests, drugs, surgery and equipment
- offered responsibly they can be a sign of healthy innovation in the fertility sector
- however, many of the add-ons currently offered are not evidenced / have limited evidence of effectiveness



# What is the HFEA doing?

### Move towards a more consistent and transparent approach:

- Traffic light rating system
  - Annual review by SCAAC
  - Annual horizon scanning process from journal articles, conferences and contact with experts at Horizon Scanning meetings
  - Feedback via the National Patient Survey
- Expectations set out in:
  - The Code of Practice
  - Treatment Add-ons Consensus Statement how treatment add-ons should be offered
    ethically in clinical practice in the UK





# What is the HFEA doing?

### **Code of Practice:**

## Information specific to the centre

4.5 Before treatment is offered, the centre should give the woman seeking treatment and her partner, if applicable, information

### Information about the treatment

- 4.6 Before treatment is offered, the centre should give the woman seeking treatment and her partner, if applicable, information about:
- (b) the nature of the proposed treatment and any treatment add ons, including evidence of effectiveness the centre should provide information in a lay format with reference to the HFEA website as outlined in 4.5 (d)

# Consensus statement principles on information provision

# **Principles:**

- Clinics should provide patients with upto-date information about the evidence base supporting the use of add-ons
- Information should be given to patients before obtaining their consent
- Patients must be clearly informed of the experimental nature of any add-on offered, where there is no robust evidence of its safety and/or effectiveness
- The fertility sector should continue to work together to improve the standards of treatment by sharing the evidence for add-ons























