



**Human
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The importance of sharing information on treatment add-ons

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Introduction

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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**

Sign	Explanation
Red 	No evidence that this add-on is effective and safe
Amber 	There is a conflicting body of evidence for this add-on, further research is required
Green 	RCTs prove that the add-on is effective and safe

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 up-to-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

