HFEA Licence Committee Meeting

28 May 2009

21 Bloomsbury Street London WC1B 3HF

Minutes – Item 15

The Bridge Centre (0070) – Application to add CGH as a PGS methodology

Members of the Committee:	Committee Secretary:
Clare Lewis-Jones (Lay) – Chair Ruth Fasht (lay) Sue Price (clinical geneticist)	Kristen Veblen Legal Adviser: Graham Miles, Morgan Cole

Declarations of Interest: members of the Committee declared that they had no conflicts of interest in relation to this item.

The following papers were considered by the Committee:

- papers for licence committee (38 pages)
- no tabled papers.

The Committee also had before it:

- HFEA Protocol for the Conduct of Licence Committee Meetings and Hearings
- 7th edition of the HFEA Code of Practice
- Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as amended)
- HFEA (Licence Committees and Appeals) Regulations 1991 (SI 1991/1889)
- Decision Trees for Granting and Renewing Licences and Considering Requests to Vary a Licence; and
- Guidance for members of Authority and Committees on the handling of conflicts of interest approved by the Authority on 21st January 2009.

1. The Committee considered the application form, supporting documents including background information, protocols on array CGH, validation

results and patient information and consent forms to be used, as well as the peer review.

2. The Committee discussed the scientific information provided to them and noted that array CGH was considered an improvement on Fluorescent In-Situ Hybridisation (FISH) technique for selected chromosomes, currently in use by the Centre.

3. The Committee noted and concurred with the comments of the peer reviewer in relation to the patient information sheet, and considered that the information given could be interpreted as providing false reassurance that a screened embryo would have a normal (balanced) chromosome complement.

The Committee's Decision

4. The Committee noted that it had received a signed application form and that it was satisfied that this technique was designed to secure that embryos were in a suitable condition to be placed in a woman or to determine whether embryos were suitable for that purpose and that the performance of this activity was desirable for the purpose of providing treatment services.

5. The Committee recommended that the Centre revise the information for patients in line with the recommendations of the peer reviewer, to include more information about genetic counselling and to indicate that the test did not guarantee a normal (balanced) chromosome complement.

6. The Committee decided to vary the licence to add array CGH, subject to the submission of a revised patient information form to the Executive.

Signed Clare Lewis-Jones ... Date 9/6/09...
Clare Lewis-Jones (Chair)