

## HFEA Licence Committee Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> September 2009

21 Bloomsbury Street London WC1B 3HF

Minutes – item 6

### Glasgow Centre for Reproductive (0250), Application to vary licence

Members of the Committee:

Clare Lewis-Jones (lay)  
Ruth Fasht (lay)  
Sue Price (Clinical Geneticist)  
Chris Barratt (Andrologist)

Committee Secretary:  
Alexandra Tydeman

Legal Adviser:  
Stephen Hocking

Apologies:

Roger Neuberg (clinician)

**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 (8 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 papers, which included an application for variation of Licence and executive summary.
2. The Committee noted that Glasgow Centre for Reproductive Medicine had submitted an application to vary licence condition A.7.3. to permit fresh embryos created with non quarantined gametes to be transferred to a gestational surrogate.
3. The Committee noted that the commissioning couple and surrogate had been through the normal pathway of medical assessment and counselling and appropriate advice given in relation to surrogacy in accordance with the Code of Practice.
4. The Committee acknowledged the reasons outlined in the report for the request. It noted the recommendation by the Executive that the centre should be allowed to vary licence condition A.7.3. for the treatment of the named patients. The Committee also noted that the couple would have been screened for HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C in the course of the failed course of treatment, that the centre proposed to rescreen them prior to stimulation, and that accordingly the risk to the gestational surrogate of waiving the usual quarantine period is reduced. Although not binding on the Committee, a similar application had recently been supported by the committee for Barts and the London Centre for Reproductive Medicine.

#### The Committee's Decision

5. On the particular facts of this application, the Committee endorsed the Executive's recommendation to vary the centre's licence for condition A.7.3.

Signed.....

Clare Lewis Jones (Chair)

Date.....

24/9/09