

Licence Committee Meeting

21 May 2008

21 Bloomsbury Street London WC1B 3HF

MINUTES Item 5

Leicester Fertility Clinic, 0068 Interim Inspection

Members of the Committee:

Anna Carragher, Lay Member – Chair
Emily Jackson, Lay Member
Richard Harries, Lay Member
William Ledger, Professor of
Obstetrics and Gynaecology,
University of Sheffield

In Attendance:

Chris O'Toole, Head of Research
Regulation
Claudia Lally, Committee Secretary

Providing Legal Advice to the
Committee:
Nusrat Zar, Herbert Smith LLP

Present via conference telephone:
Rebekah Dundas, Lay Member

Conflicts 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 (26 pages)
- no papers were tabled.

1. The papers for this item were presented by Ellie Suthers, HFEA Inspector. Ms Suthers informed the Committee that this centre is small to medium sized and provides private and NHS funded treatments. It is a self contained unit with secure access within Leicester Royal Infirmary. The centre has undergone expansion and refurbishment since the last renewal inspection and the new premises were deemed appropriate and approved by a Licence Committee on 6 March 2008. The interim inspection identified a number of areas for improvement, these included:

- time taken to pay invoices
- compliance with Trust health and safety policies
- ineffective sound proofing in counselling rooms
- inappropriate wording used in information on sperm donation
- on-call arrangements
- cramped conditions in the cryostore.

2. Ms Suthers drew the Committee's attention to pages 6 to 8 of the inspection report where the areas for improvement are detailed along with timescales for addressing them. She informed the Committee that the patient information on sperm donation has now been changed to remove reference to the payment of donors. Counselling has now moved temporarily to allow the sound proofing of the counselling room to be addressed. The centre is also exploring the possibility of improving the cryostore facilities.

3. The Committee noted the comment on page 8 that the reported OHSS rate was 9% and asked Ms Suthers why this might be. Ms Suthers replied that this apparently high rate may be a reflection of the way the centre reports occurrences of OHSS rather than reflecting a high incidence of the condition. The Committee noted this explanation but asked the Executive to study the information held at the HFEA to firmly establish whether this is a real problem or merely a reporting issue.

4. The Committee asked Ms Suthers about the other comment on page 8 about the fact that the out of hours services provided by the Nurses and Embryologist are provided on a voluntary basis. Ms Suthers replied that this service is not written into the contracts of these staff members and it is unpaid. The Committee agreed that this arrangement should be formalised in order to ensure that the centre's insurance is not invalidated.

The Committee's Decision:

5. The Committee agreed that the centre's licence should continue with no additional conditions. They asked that the Executive chase up the centre to ensure that the areas for improvement are all addressed in the time scales stated in the report.

Signed..... Date.....
Anna Carragher (Chair)