

HFEA Executive Licence Panel Meeting

2 December 2011

Finsbury Tower, 103-105 Bunhill Row, London, EC1Y 8HF

Minutes – Item 6

Centre 0044 - (Centre For Reproductive and Genetic Health) – Variation of Licence to include HLA tissue typing in a specified patient couple with a child with Beta Thalassaemia

Members of the Panel: Mark Bennett – Director of Finance & Facilities (Chair) Nick Jones – Director of Compliance Juliet Tizzard – Head of Policy and Communications	Committee Secretary: Joanne McAlpine
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Declarations of Interest: members of the Panel declared that they had no conflicts of interest in relation to this item.

The Panel also had before it:

- HFEA Protocol for the Conduct of Meetings of Executive Licensing Panel
- 8th edition of the HFEA Code of Practice
- Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as amended)
- Decision trees for granting and renewing licences and considering requests to vary a licence (including the PGD decision tree)
- Guidance for members of Authority and Committees on the handling of conflicts of interest approved by the Authority on 21 January 2009.
- Guidance on periods for which new or renewed licences should be granted
- Standing Orders and Instrument of Delegation
- Indicative Sanctions Guidance
- HFEA Direction 0008 (where relevant), and any other relevant Directions issued by the Authority
- Guide to Licensing
- Compliance and Enforcement Policy
- Policy on Publication of Authority and Committee Papers

Consideration of Application

1. The Panel noted the papers for this item consisted of an executive summary, a redacted application form, a redacted Clinician's supporting letter (dated 6 June 2011) and additional information – a redacted clinician's support email (dated 8 September 2011 and 1 November 2011).
2. The Panel noted that this centre has considerable experience in carrying out PGD and conducted a large number of PGD cycles, involving HLA tissue typing.
3. The Panel noted that the combination of PGD for Beta Thalassaemia with HLA had previously been authorised by the HFEA.
4. The Panel noted that embryo testing for HLA typing to provide a bone marrow/stem cell match for a sibling suffering from a serious medical condition, is a lawful defined purpose for embryo testing, as specified at HF&E Act (1990) as amended, Schedule 2, para 1ZA (1) (d), and qualified by HF&E Act (1990) as amended, Schedule 2, para 1ZA (4).
5. The Panel noted from the original clinician's letter (dated 6 June 2011) that the patient couple have a child with the condition, and want to undergo PGD with HLA typing with embryo selection in order for the family to have a new baby who is both free from Beta thalassaemia major and a HLA match.
6. The Panel noted that the Inspectorate recommended the variation of the centre's licence, to allow HLA for Beta Thalassaemia for the specified patient couple in the application.

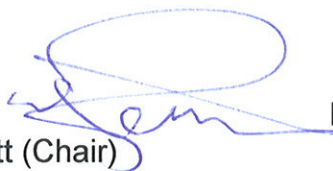
Decision

7. The Panel referred to its decision tree. The Panel noted that the purpose of the application did not include research. The Panel noted that stages 16d (i-v), which sets out the factors that need to be addressed when considering pre-implantation tissue typing, had been demonstrated and met.
8. The Panel noted that the letter from the treating clinician demonstrated the high degree of suffering associated with the condition and the lack of viable alternative treatment options. Accordingly, the Panel agreed that it had sufficient information and that it was satisfied that HLA tissue typing was appropriate for the patients concerned.
9. The Panel was satisfied that those seeking treatment and their families will have proper access to proper counselling about the implications of the procedure.

10. The Panel agreed to vary the centre's licence to include HLA tissue typing for the named patients specified in the application, for a child suffering from Beta Thalassaemia.

Signed:

Mark Bennett (Chair)



Date:

9 Dec 2011

