



Statutory Approvals Committee – minutes

Centre 0293 (Andrology Solutions)

Special Directions application to export sperm to Spain for patient couple's own use

Thursday, 31 January 2019

Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster, London. SW1P 3NZ

Committee members	Margaret Gilmore (Chair) Bobbie Farsides (Deputy Chair) Anne Lampe Emma Cave Ruth Wilde Rachel Cutting	
Members of the Executive	Bernice Ash Dee Knoyle Paula Robinson Sandrine Oakes Nicola Lawrence	Committee Secretary Committee Secretary (Observer) Head of Planning and Governance (Observer) Inspector (Observer for Induction) Inspector (Observer for Induction)
External adviser		
Legal Adviser	Tom Rider	Field Fisher LLP

Declarations of interest

- Members of the panel declared that they had no conflicts of interest in relation to this item.

The committee had before it:

- 9th edition of the HFEA Code of Practice
- Standard licensing and approvals pack for committee members.
- General Directions 006 (2018)
- HFEA Standing Orders (2018)
- Special Directions Decision Tree (2018)

The following papers were considered by the committee:

- Executive Summary
- Application for the export of sperm to the Institut Marques, Barcelona, Spain
- Further Information form
- Letter from the proposed receiving centre confirming willingness to accept
- Letter from the male partner providing further information

1. Background

- 1.1. The Person Responsible (PR) at Andrology Solutions, centre 0293 has applied for Special Directions to export nine straws of the patient's own sperm to the Institut Marques, Barcelona, Spain.
- 1.2. The application is being made because the male partner is severely oligozoospermic, his partner is 45 years old and perimenopausal and requires egg donation. The couple have investigated the options of treatment in the UK. It is said in the application that they have been told by another UK licensed clinic that they may need to wait years for a suitable egg donor. Given the female patient's advancing age and to prevent further delay, the couple are seeking treatment at the Institut Marques where they believe donor eggs are more readily available. The male partner will be obtaining fertility treatment in Spain, but as he has such a low sperm count, there is a risk of azoospermia on the day of egg collection. Therefore, he would like to transport his frozen samples as a back-up should his sample be azoospermic on the day of egg collection.

2. Consideration of application

Application

- 2.1. The committee noted that the PR at centre 0293 has applied for Special Directions to export nine straws of the patient's own sperm to Spain. An application form has been received.
- 2.2. The committee discussed the information provided on the application form and letter from the patient, with specific regard to the deficiency of evidence concerning the length of waiting lists and availability of donor eggs in the UK. The committee also discussed whether the patient couple had received adequate counselling and information from an IVF clinic on these issues. The committee felt that further statistics on the waiting times for donor eggs, across the UK, would be useful data to view, noting that treatment conducted in the UK would enable the child access to donor information, in keeping with UK law.
- 2.3. The Legal Advisor informed the committee that the provision of further information on access and availability of donor eggs in the UK is not a requirement to making an application, but if the committee consider there is insufficient information on the point in this application, given that the application form states that the patient couple 'were informed by another HFEA licensed clinic that they may need to wait years for an egg donor to become available', it would be open to the committee to adjourn its consideration of the application to see if any additional information could be obtained.

3. Decision

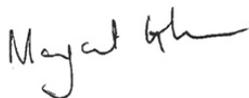
- 3.1. The committee noted that both the applicant and patient stated it could take more than a year to have donor egg treatment in the UK. The committee felt in making a decision on this application it would benefit from further information from the applicant to verify the claim that in this case the waiting time for donor eggs is likely to be over a year. The committee would like to see more widely sourced and detailed evidence from the applicant on the availability of donor eggs in the UK. Should a suitable donor egg be found more quickly in the UK it could allow treatment to be conducted in the UK, and thus would enable any child subsequently born, to access donor information in keeping with UK law.

- 3.2.** The committee is keen to ensure the couple is making a fully informed decision and there is not an option of donor eggs being more quickly available in the UK.
- 3.3.** The committee adjourned a decision on this Special Directions application, pending further information from the applicant.
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4. Chair's signature

- 4.1.** I confirm this is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Gilmore'.

Name

Margaret Gilmore

Date

25 February 2019