

Executive Licensing Panel - minutes

Centre 0078 (Wolfson Fertility Centre – Hammersmith Hospital)

Licence Extension application

Tuesday, 22 September 2020

HFEA Teleconference Meeting

Panel members	Clare Ettinghausen (Chair) Joanne Anton Kathleen Sarsfield-Watson	Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs Head of Regulatory Policy Communications Manager
Members of the Executive	Bernice Ash	Secretary
External adviser		
Observers	Catherine Burwood Dee Knogle	Licensing Manager Committee Officer

Declarations of interest

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

The panel had before it:

- 9th edition of the HFEA Code of Practice.
- Standard licensing and approvals pack for committee members.

1. Consideration of application

- 1.1. The panel considered the papers, which included a completed application form and Executive summary.
- 1.2. The panel noted that Wolfson Fertility Centre - Hammersmith Hospital is located in London and has held a licence with the HFEA since 1992. The centre provides a full range of fertility services, including embryo testing, to NHS and privately funded patients.
- 1.3. In response to UK measures to contain and mitigate the spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus, a decision was taken by the HFEA to suspend all inspections of licensed premises until at least 1 November 2020.
- 1.4. The panel noted that HFEA licensed premises should be inspected every two years (Schedule 3B paragraph (4)(1)). The suspension of inspections impacts on the Authority's legal duties to carry out its regulatory functions. This action has been agreed with the Authority.
- 1.5. The panel noted that the HFEA normally issues licences for treatment and/or storage for a duration of up to four years but can issue a licence for five years (Schedule 2 paragraph 1(5) of the HF&E Act 1990).
- 1.6. In light of the current suspension of inspections, due to Covid-19, centre 0078 has applied to extend their licence by one year; the current licence expires on 31 December 2020.
- 1.7. The panel noted that the centre was last inspected on 29 January 2019 and recommendations were made in relation to two major and one 'other' areas of non-compliance. The Person Responsible (PR) has provided evidence that all of the recommendations have been implemented.
- 1.8. The panel noted that the executive is satisfied that;
 - the PR has discharged their responsibility under section 17 of the Act;
 - the centre has followed professional body guidance to suspend all non-essential treatments in response to Covid-19;
 - the centre continues to manage the storage of gametes, embryos and patient records appropriately during this period;
 - there have been no serious (Grade A) incidents since the last inspection;
 - the centre has suitable procedures in place to continue to support patients.
- 1.9. The executive recommends the approval of the application to vary the centre's treatment (including embryo testing) and storage licence, extending the duration to 31 December 2021, without additional conditions.
- 1.10. Centre 0078 has been issued with an Importing Tissue Establishment (ITE) import certificate by the HFEA, pursuant to section 24(4AD). Such certificates are generally synchronised to the centre's HFEA licence. The panel noted that the executive also recommends the renewal of the centre's ITE import certificate in line with the centre's licence.

2. Decision

- 2.1. The panel was satisfied that;
 - the PR has discharged their responsibility under section 17 of the Act;
 - the centre has followed professional body guidance to suspend all non-essential treatments in response to Covid-19;
 - the centre continues to manage the storage of gametes, embryos and patient records appropriately during this period;
 - there have been no serious (Grade A) incidents since the last inspection:

- the centre has suitable procedures in place to continue to support patients.

- 2.2.** The panel endorsed the executive's recommendation to vary the centre's treatment (including embryo testing) and storage licence, extending the duration to 31 December 2021, without additional conditions.
- 2.3.** The panel endorsed the executive's recommendation to renew the centre's ITE import certificate, in line with the centre's licence.
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3. Chair's signature

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

Signature



Name

Clare Ettinghausen

Date

30 September 2020