

Executive Licensing Panel - minutes

Centre 0026 (BMI The Priory Hospital)

Licence Extension Application

Wednesday, 7 October 2020

HFEA Teleconference Meeting

Panel members	Richard Sydee (Chair) Helen Crutcher Laura Riley	Director of Finance and Resources Risk and Business Planning Manager Head of Regulatory Policy
Members of the Executive	Bernice Ash	Secretary
External adviser		
Observers	Catherine Burwood Matthew Mudford	Licensing Manager Scientific Policy Officer (Induction)

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 BMI The Priory Hospital has held a licence with the HFEA since 1992. The centre is privately owned and offers licensed treatment to both self-funding and NHS 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 0026 has applied to extend their licence by one year; the current licence expires on 30 June 2021.
- 1.7. The panel noted the centre was last inspected on 13 November 2018 and recommendations were made in relation to one 'other' area of non-compliance. The Person Responsible (PR) has provided evidence that the recommendation has 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 and storage licence, extending the duration to 30 June 2022 without additional conditions.

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 and storage licence, extending the duration to 30 June 2022, without additional conditions.

3. Chair's signature

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

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Sydee', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Name

Richard Sydee

Date

14 October 2020