Essential monthly information for clinic staff

June 2017

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New outcome statistics on Choose a Fertility Clinic

Now the data verification exercise is complete, we will shortly be publishing the new pregnancy and birth statistics on Choose a Fertility Clinic service.

The latest Chief Executive’s letter gives details of the methodology we use to prepare these statistics for publication. It also describes where and when the new statistics will be published.

Read the full letter

HFEA updates

Our new website and Choose a Fertility Clinic will soon be live

The wait is almost over - the new live versions of our website and Choose a Fertility Clinic service will be launched very soon.

This has taken a little longer than we expected due to some unexpected delays but we now have an excellent service built for patients and tested by

Update on the implementation of two EU Directives

Back in March we informed you via the Knowledge Base that the Department of Health-led consultation on the implementation of two EU Directives (on the coding and import of gametes and embryos) had gone live. We would like to thank those of you who responded to the consultation for taking the
patients, that will make a real difference to how they make choices about fertility care.

The completely redesigned website contains specific information, journeys for different types of patients and new information about fertility treatment, including video and animation.

We are also launching a trial of our patient ratings feature, which will run for six months. We will evaluate the feature for its usefulness to patients, clinics and HFEA inspectors and monitor it for any signs of misuse. When the website goes live in a few weeks, we will send you marketing materials that you can use to encourage responses from your patients. We will also use our own communication channels to market this feature directly to patients.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in this project, giving us feedback and contributing their ideas. We will let you know as soon as the new website has gone live.

If you have any questions please email us at communications@hfea.gov.uk.

time to express your views.

We informed you earlier this year that we’d be restarting this project. However, with the announcement of the General Election on 8 June, the Department of Health has now decided to suspend the process of transposing both EU Directives. In light of this decision, we also have paused work on implementing these Directives until we receive further information. While it is currently unknown when we will restart this project, we will keep you updated on any further progress on this piece of work.

Your tissue establishment (TE) code

In the meantime, some EU member states have already implemented the Directives. As a result, you may be asked to provide your TE code when importing or exporting embryos and gametes. The TE code provides a mechanism for member states to identify whether a tissue establishment is authorised to import and export gametes and embryos. (Member states know this because we update an EU database with the TE codes of those centres that are authorised to import and export, and will continue to do so.)

TE codes are six characters in length and are prefixed with a two-character country code. The country code for the UK is GB. This is then followed by two zeros and your four-digit centre number (eg, centre 0999 is GB000999).

We have opted to keep the TE code as simple as possible, however, should you have any questions please contact your inspector in the first instance.

If you have any questions or comments about the implementation of the EU Directives, please contact Anjeli Kara at anjeli.kara@hfea.gov.uk or Chris Hall at chris.hall@hfea.gov.uk.

Add a photo of your clinic to Choose a Fertility Clinic

You still have time before the new website goes live to upload a photograph of your clinic for your Choose a Fertility Clinic entry. This is important as it is often one of the first things that a potential patient will look at when browsing clinics.

You can upload your photo, as well as other important information about your clinic via the 'My Clinic' section of the Clinic Portal. You will need your login name and password to access this part of the website.

You will also be able to find an image guide on this part of the Clinic Portal to help you select the best image possible.

RCN publication on fertility preservation

The Royal College of Nursing recently published a professional resource on fertility preservation aimed at providing professional clinic staff and fertility nurses with information for supporting and caring for patients who have elected to preserve their fertility.

The publication focuses on several key points for the reader to consider, such as what options there are for fertility preservation, what options are available locally and how to obtain consent and from whom.

Download the RCN fertility preservation publication

Editorial statement
Clinic Focus is the official electronic newsletter of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, is produced by the editorial team of the HFEA and provides a monthly roundup of news and information for clinics and their staff working in the field of fertility treatment.

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Would you like to contribute to Clinic Focus?
We welcome suggestions from clinics for subjects we cover each month. If there is anything that you would like to see featured in a future issue of Clinic Focus please let us know by contacting us at clinicfocus@hfea.gov.uk

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