Last call for feedback on compliance and enforcement policy changes

As mentioned in last month’s Clinic Focus, we are reviewing our compliance and enforcement policy which sets out how we deal with clinics when there are concerns about their performance. We are looking for feedback on these changes. To comment on any of the suggested changes to the policy or supporting guidance please fill out our short questionnaire.

View the full copy of the draft policy, as well as some supporting information on the proposed changes. The deadline for feedback is Monday 18 January.

Update on Counsellor qualifications

Last month we published an article on counselling accreditation and equivalence. We have updated this article to provide clarity on patient access to counsellors that are accredited by the British Infertility Counselling Association (BICA), or working towards BICA accreditation or equivalent.

Read the full update

Small increase to treatment fees

As mentioned in the December edition of Clinic Focus, your clinic’s IVF treatment fee will increase from £75 to £80 and the elective single embryo transfer (eSET) discount will be removed from 1 April 2016.

This is the first increase in fees for 10 years. Since 2006 we have actually reduced the clinic fee by keeping our costs under careful control and making savings wherever possible.

These changes are subject to final approval from central government which we hope to receive in the next few weeks. When we have this we will issue a Chair’s letter giving you more details.

FAQs on the use of CE marked products

Clinics often ask us about the requirement to use CE marked medical devices where possible. We’ve answered some of the most frequently asked questions, including those discussed at our 2015 annual conference workshop on CE markings, to provide greater clarity on the issue.

Read the FAQs
**New book teaches children about donor conception**

Beverly Ward's new book 'Archie Nolan: Family Detective' follows 11 year old Archie Nolan, who is terrified he and his sister will be revealed as being donor conceived when his teacher tasks the class to research their family tree.

Using humour and a sub-plot involving Archie's best friend Cameron and a vampire, the book explores the challenges facing those children who are conceived by sperm and egg donation.

Produced by the Donor Conception Network, the book is designed to help donor-conceived children feel better about themselves and also educate all children about the growing number of their classmates friends created this way. They hope it will also encourage families with donor-conceived children to be up front about these issues from early on, so that being donor-conceived is seen as just another route to having a loving family.

More information can be found on the Donor Conception Network.

**Come to our Authority meeting**

The next Authority meeting takes place on Wednesday 20 January where we will provide an update on the Information for Quality programme, a summary of applications to use register data and an update on new guidance for clinics on embryo testing.

If you would like to attend this authority meeting, or want to find out more about it, head over to our website.

If you are unable to attend, an audio recording of the meeting will be available to download from the website after it has taken place.