

THE USE OF EGGS, SPERM AND EMBRYOS FOR TRAINING

In order to continue the development of the service we offer, we need to train new laboratory staff members, as well as maintain and update the skills of current embryologists and andrologists. There is a requirement to use eggs, sperm and embryos to provide the best possible training which is vital to help meet our aim of maximising patient care, experience and success rates.

EGGS & SPERM

Sometimes during a treatment, eggs do not fertilise normally, or are too immature to be used in treatment. These eggs are not 'viable' and could never result in a pregnancy. These are the ones we use for training purposes. Embryologists in training need to master a number of very delicate techniques and therefore handling non-viable eggs is essential in preparation for handling viable patient eggs which they will do only once fully trained.

On occasion, we may also use these eggs in order for fully trained Embryologists to 'practice' procedures that they do not often perform for patients or to improve their skills. Sperm that are surplus to requirements following analysis or treatment, both only performed by fully trained members of staff, may also subsequently be used for training purposes.

EMBRYOS

Embryos can be left over after treatment (i.e. not transferred back into the uterus) due to being lower quality or not developing at a normal rate. If they are also not of a suitable quality to be frozen, they are used for the same purposes as non-viable eggs. It is by the use of these surplus non-viable embryos for training that we can ensure that we are handling and processing viable embryos during treatments in the most efficient, practical and safe manner.

Under no circumstances will embryos be created in a training situation. Eggs for training will remain eggs and are never injected or introduced to sperm. Embryos and sperm used in training are not harmed, their disposal is simply delayed by up to 10 days (usually less) to allow for their use in training.

As a department we would be very grateful if you are willing to consent to the use of any non-viable eggs, embryos and excess sperm left over after treatment for training. If you have any queries over the use of your eggs, embryos or sperm in training, any of the Embryologists would be happy to answer them.

If you decide not to allow your sperm, eggs or embryos to be used training, this will not affect your treatment in any way. You can change or vary your consent at any time prior to your sperm, eggs or embryos being used in training and this will not affect your treatment in any way.

If you request, in advance of use, we can inform you of the type of training that your sperm, eggs or embryos will be used for.

Other Sources of Information

NHS Direct

A nurse-led advice service run by the NHS for patients with questions about diagnosis and treatment of common conditions.

Telephone: 111

Patient UK

Provides leaflets on health and disease translated into 11 other languages as well as links to national support/self help groups and a directory of UK health websites.

Website: www.patient.co.uk

HFEA - Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority

www.hfea.gov.uk

Further information is available from;

Patient Advise and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS will act on your behalf when handling patient and family concerns, they can also help you get support from other local or national agencies. PALS, is a confidential service.

Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, Tel: 0800 783 0057 or 01743 261691

Princess Royal Hospital, Tel: 01952 282888

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Your Information

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find out more about the information we hold and how it is used in the leaflet called: **Your Information**.

Website: www.sath.nhs.uk

Authorisation date	19.10.17	Review date	19.10.18	Version number	6	Document number	A37LG
Author	SB	Number of pages	2	Location	ISO9000 QUALITY APPENDIX LABORATORY GENE		