



**The Shrewsbury and
Telford Hospital**
NHS Trust

Patient Information

The Shropshire and Mid Wales

Fertility Centre

Use of Embryos, Eggs and Sperm in Training

Shropshire and Mid Wales Fertility Centre

Address: Severn Fields Health Village, Sundorne Road,
Shrewsbury SY1 4RQ.

Tel:01743 261202

Introduction

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. We need to use surplus 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.

Only eggs, sperm and embryos that are unsuitable for use in your current treatment and are unsuitable for freezing for a future treatment would be used. The information in this leaflet tells you under what circumstances they could be used.

We ask all our patients if they would consider donating any spare eggs, sperm or embryos to use for staff training purposes. Whilst we very much appreciate these donations please be reassured that your decision to donate or not will not influence your treatment in any way and you are under no obligation to consent to this.

How will eggs and sperm be used for training?

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 of which are only performed by fully trained members of staff, may also subsequently be used for training purposes.

Eggs, sperm and embryos used in training may be stored so it is not possible for us to use them in training unless you have consented to storage. Any limitations you have placed on storage times apply (information about how storage times are calculated can be found in your treatment information leaflet) but please be advised they are likely to be discarded well before the maximum storage time. We do not store gametes or embryos specifically for training.

Eggs and sperm that have been used in training would never go on to be used in treatment.

How will embryos be used for training?

Embryos can be left over after treatment (i.e. not transferred back into the uterus) due to being poor 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. Embryos used in training would never be used in treatment.

Under no circumstances will embryos be created in a training situation. Eggs for training will remain eggs and are never injected with or introduced to sperm.

Will I know if my eggs, sperm or embryos have been used in training?

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.

There is a remote possibility that we may discover something during their use that may influence your treatment or be relevant to your health, in which case you will be made aware of our findings.

What happened after my eggs, sperm or embryos have been used in training?

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. Whilst being used for training the eggs, sperm or embryos will still remain identifiable, and tracked, as yours up until the point they are disposed of.

Summary and Further Information

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 decide not to allow your sperm, eggs or embryos to be used training, this will not affect your treatment in any way. You can withdraw 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 have any specific requests as to how your surplus eggs, sperm or embryos are used then this should be discussed with the embryologists.

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.

Contact details for more information

Useful telephone numbers

Fertility nursing team **01743 261202** or call the hospital switchboard on **01743 261000** and ask to be put through to the Fertility unit. Please note the department accepts calls from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

Further information is available from;

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

We act on your behalf when handling patient and family concerns, liaising with staff, managers and where appropriate, relevant organisations to negotiate immediate or prompt solutions. We can also help you get support from other local or national agencies.

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

Princess Royal Hospital, Tel: 01952 282888

Other Sources of Information

NHS 111

A fast and easy way to get the right help, whatever the time. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

Telephone: 111 (free from a landline or mobile)

Website: www.nhs.uk

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.info

Special Needs Information

If you need any further help, for example with an interpreter or if you need this information in another format please contact the fertility unit to arrange this by calling (01743) 261202 and selecting option 2 or email sth-tr@shropshireivf@nhs.net

Website: www.sath.nhs.uk

www.shropshireivf.nhs.uk

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