

The following document was produced following an international forum on cross-border reproductive care that took place in Canada in January 2009.

PATIENT PROMPTER

Introduction

This prompter is designed to help patients who have decided to undertake cross-border reproductive care to prepare, by providing a framework for considering safety and quality of care issues.

Using multiple sources of information may help you get a more complete picture of your destination clinic - what sources have you used so far, to obtain and verify information concerning costs, success rates, care packages, waiting times, availability of donor sperm/eggs/embryos? Some sources of information you may wish to explore include clinics, physicians, other patients, patient organizations in your own country, and national government agencies in your own and in the destination country.

Questions about your destination clinic

1. What are the qualifications and experience of the clinic's medical, nursing and scientific staff?
2. What clinical and laboratory accreditation/certification and/or professional standards does the clinic comply with?
3. Does the clinic have a complaints/incident-reporting procedure?
4. Are patient records maintained securely and how long will they be kept?
5. Does the clinic provide information in a language you understand or provide access to a competent interpreter?

Information about your proposed treatment

1. Have the safety and effectiveness of the treatment you seek been established?

2. What are the risks to you or any children you may conceive, particularly if a multiple pregnancy occurs?
3. What treatment is provided in the care package? Is information provided on what you should do if you need emergency care and treatment while abroad, and are unable to access the out-of country clinic?
4. If you need part of your treatment (e.g. cycle monitoring such as blood tests, or ultrasound scans) in your own country, how will this be provided?

Provision of counselling and emotional support

1. Is professional counselling available at all stages of treatment in a language that is understandable to you?
2. Do you have support from friends or family or from other sources for the treatment you propose?

If your proposed treatment involves surrogacy or a donor procedure

NB It is strongly recommended that you seek legal advice on issues such as: the citizenship of any child born through a procedure involving surrogacy; how parentage is determined in the country of birth for any child born through a procedure involving surrogacy; and whether a surrogate or donor would have parental or other rights/responsibilities with respect to the child.

1. What assurances are given that gametes or embryos actually come from the chosen donor?
2. What medical and psychological screening of the donor/surrogate is undertaken?
3. What assurances are given that the donor/surrogate has given his or her informed consent?
4. What assurances are given that the surrogate is healthy and free of communicable disease prior to treatment?
5. What assurances are given that the surrogate will avoid high-risk

activity during pregnancy?

6. What assurances are given that the surrogate will have safe, effective obstetric care?
7. What information is available to you about the donor/surrogate? Can this be updated and given to you in the future and can you request further information from the donor for medical/genetic issues?
8. What expenses/financial incentive/other benefits - if any - have been paid to the donor/surrogate, and how does the clinic verify this?
9. How does the clinic protect confidentiality of information between donor/ surrogate and you?
10. Can you use the same donor to have another child in the future?
11. Is there a limit on the number of children conceived from a single donor?
12. If gametes or embryos are to be imported to your home country, what arrangements need to be made?
13. Does the donor/surrogate have any legal or financial responsibility for offspring?
14. Does the donor/surrogate have any right to information about the outcome of his/her donation?

Issues for offspring born as the result of surrogacy or a donor procedure

1. Will any information about the donor/surrogate be available to your child? If so, at what age and how will they receive or apply for this information?
2. Where will the information be held and for how long?
3. What will you tell your child about how he/she was conceived? How will you do this and where will you get support and information about telling?
4. If information about the donor/surrogate is not available to your

child, how will you explain this to him or her?

5. Are there any legal implications for children conceived by donor gametes/ surrogacy either in the specific destination country or your own country?