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cpsa
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
& SURGEONS OF ALBERTA

Assisted Reproductive Technology Standards (ART)

Version May 2017 – v2

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Originating Committee:	**Advisory Committee on Non-Hospital Surgical Facilities**

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1.0 Preamble

This document addresses privileges and standards for Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) services and is intended to supplement the CPSA's standards for *Non-Hospital Surgical Facilities.*

Physicians may only provide Assisted Reproductive Technology services in a non-hospital facility in Alberta that is accredited by the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta.

Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) provides health services used to achieve pregnancy in treatments not appropriate for the physician office setting. ART services occurring in the non-hospital surgical facility include fertility medications, surgical procedures and in vitro fertilization (IVF).

A non-hospital Assisted Reproductive Technology services facility in Alberta must be approved by the CPSA as a non-hospital surgical facility (NHSF) and, if body fluid and/or tissue analysis is performed, then also as a diagnostic laboratory.

Below are supplementary standards to the NHSF standards applicable to facilities providing Assisted Reproductive Technology services. These standards address some matters not currently in federal regulation and will apply to Alberta facilities until they are supplanted by national standards for the licensing of Assisted Reproductive Technology services (including in-vitro fertilization) approved and implemented by Health Canada.

In this document:

- "shall" is used when a section is a requirement for accreditation;
- "should" is used when a section is recommended; and
- "may" is used when a section is discretionary.

All accredited medical facilities shall have a Medical Director (i.e. a practitioner who is registered with the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta) who is accountable for the practice of medicine within the facility.

2.0 Medical Staff – Qualifications

2.1 Medical Director

2.1.1 The Medical Director of an ART facility (including in-vitro fertilization) shall:

2.1.1.1 Have a current practice permit in Alberta and be recognized by the CPSA as a specialist in Obstetrics and Gynecology,

-and-

2.1.1.2 Have sub-specialty recognition by the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility,

-or-

2.1.1.3 Have international training and recognition in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility equivalent to that required for certification by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

2.2 Physicians Requesting Privileges

2.2.1 Physicians providing full ART services (including in-vitro fertilization) shall:

2.2.1.1 Have a current practice permit in Alberta and be recognized as a specialist in Obstetrics and Gynecology,

-and-

2.2.1.2 Have sub-specialty recognition by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility,

-or-

2.2.1.3 Have international training and recognition in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility equivalent to that required for certification by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada,

-or-

2.2.1.4 Have 5 or more years of experience acceptable to the CPSA that commenced before the REI fellowship was available,

-and-

2.2.1.5 Be recommended by the medical director of the facility.

2.3 Grandfathering

2.3.1 Medical Directors and physicians providing full services that are already practicing in ART (including in-vitro fertilization) facilities in Alberta prior to the adoption of these standards will be grandfathered.

2.4 Assisting Personnel – Qualifications

Ideally, laboratory staff members would be qualified in accordance with the recommendations of the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS).

However, until such time as there are sufficient embryology training programs and graduates, the Medical Director is solely responsible for ensuring that all facility staff members are qualified and competent to perform their duties.

3.0 Patient Selection

Criteria for acceptable patients shall be written and shall include screening tests for hepatitis B & C, HIV, HTLV 1 & 2 and syphilis on all patients within one year prior to providing gametes.

4.0 Procedures

4.1 There shall be written procedures for all surgical procedures in the facility.

4.2 There shall be written procedures for all non-surgical procedures in the facility that are essential to the provision of an ART service, including IVF (e.g. use of ultrasound, processing and storage of semen, ova and embryos.)

5.0 Patient Records

In addition to the CPSA's requirements for medical records in non-hospital surgical facilities, each patient record in an accredited ART facility shall include:

5.1 consent forms approved Health Canada signed by each gamete provider,
5.2 the number of eggs retrieved,
5.3 the number of eggs/embryos transferred,
5.4 the number of eggs/embryos cryopreserved,
5.6 the number of eggs/embryos discarded, and
5.7 discharge and follow-up instructions given after egg retrieval and embryo transfer.

6.0 Quality Assurance Program

In addition to guidelines for quality assurance in non-hospital surgical facilities, an ART facility shall be a member of the Canadian Assisted Reproductive Technology Registry and make its data submissions to the registry available to the CPSA for review.