

ONE AT A TIME

The regulator's plans

Chris O'Toole
Jessica Watkin

HFEA policy

- Aim: reduce national average multiple birth rate following IVF/ICSI
- 24% to 10% over 3 - 4 years
- HFEA to set progressively lower targets
- Targets: 'upper limit'. All clinics

HFEA policy (cont'd)

- Year 1: 24%. Some already on or below – but all expected to lower
- All centres: multiple births minimisation strategy
- Strategy: includes SET criteria/ targets
- Deviation from SET criteria in particular case: logged/ reasons provided in patient records
- Centres: regular audit of their strategy

HFEA regulation

- Targeted approach
- Work with sector, discuss issues with centres
- Prior to inspection: information on multiple pregnancy rates and ET numbers gathered from register
- Will indicate whether MB should be a focus of inspection

HFEA regulation cont'd

- If multiple pregnancy rate becomes focus for inspection
- Includes review of:
 - logged cases where SET appropriate patients did not have SET
 - targeted review patient records
 - centre's audit of effectiveness of their MBM strategy

HFEA regulation cont'd

- Inspection findings: included in report and presented to licence committee
- Licence committees: consider any regulatory action/ sanctions
- Start date: 1 January 2009
- All centres to have strategy in place in time for start date

Next steps

- Review of success rates tables in HFEA's 'Find a Clinic' (part of wider review of presenting performance)
- Multiple Births National Strategy: Partnership work with patient/professional bodies: National Strategy

Next steps cont'd

- HFEA to monitor impact (including fresh transfer pregnancy rates)
- Year 2 target: 2010