

**COUNCIL ON
HUMAN REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY
人類生殖科技管理局**

*17/F Wu Chung House
213 Queen's Road East
Wan Chai, Hong Kong
香港灣仔皇后大道東213號
胡忠大廈17樓*

Our Ref. : () in HRT/9/6
本會檔號

Tel. No. : 2961 8834
電話

Fax No. : 2527 9849/2572 5864/2572 8739
圖文傳真

8 October 2010

To: All Persons Responsible of licensed treatment centres

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Compliance with the Code of Practice on
Reproductive Technology and Embryo Research**

This letter serves to bring to your attention some cases of possible breach of paragraph 9.10 of the Code of Practice on Reproductive Technology and Embryo Research (“the Code”), so that you may avoid committing similar breaches inadvertently.

During a recent review of DC Forms submitted by treatment centres, it was discovered that there are some cases in which more than three embryos were placed in a patient below the age of 35 in a treatment cycle. The justification given by the centres for so doing was that they did so upon the request of their patients.

You are no doubt aware that paragraph 9.10 of the Code provides as follows –

“Normally, no more than three oocytes or embryos should be placed in a woman in any one cycle. As the fertilization or implantation rate is dependent on a woman’s age and her medical condition, under special circumstances with medical justifications, the limit of three oocytes or embryos may be relaxed for patients above the age of 35 so that a maximum of four or five oocytes or embryos could be placed in the first and subsequent treatment cycles respectively. Such justifications must be recorded in the medical record”.

It is therefore the Code’s clear provision that, in respect of patients below the age of 35, no more than three oocytes/ embryos should be placed **in any**

**COUNCIL ON
HUMAN REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY**
人類生殖科技管理局

circumstances. Even for patients above the age of 35, the limit may not be exceeded except **under special circumstances with medical justifications.** It is unlikely that patient's request is sufficient to constitute "special circumstance with medical justifications".

While the aforesaid cases of possible breach of the Code will be passed to the Council for consideration of further action, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the aforesaid provisions of paragraph 9.10, to prevent similar future contraventions.

For any enquiry, please do not hesitate to contact me at 2961 8834 or Ms Jennifer CHAN, Assistant Secretary, at 2961 8920.

Yours faithfully,



(AU YEUNG Wai-hung)

Secretary,

Council on Human Reproductive Technology