

**BUSINESS RULE- Guideline**

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Approved by Safety and Quality Committee  
December 2022

**KOSHER IVF**

**1. AIM**

Orthodox Jewish leaders stipulate additional requirements for their followers in relation to their utilization of fertility treatment. This document outlines a guideline in which the religious requirements set down by the Rabbi are upheld, thus permitting their followers to participate in public fertility services offered at the Royal Hospital for Women (RHW), without causing an interruption of their care or the care of other RHW patients.

**2. PATIENT**

Patients who follow the religious teachings of the Orthodox Jewish religion

**3. STAFF**

- Medical staff
- Registered nurses
- Scientific / embryology / andrology staff
- Social workers / counsellors
- The Rabbi and his religious delegates accredited to the Randwick campus

**4. EQUIPMENT**

Nil special equipment required

**5. CLINICAL PRACTICE**

- Ascertain that the patient is a follower of the Orthodox Jewish religion; this should be documented in the notes along with confirmation that the patient would like to undertake fertility treatment that complies with Jewish kosher requirements.
- Kosher IVF requires that the Rabbi or his delegate observe the following procedures:
  - Egg and embryo dish preparation in the embryology lab the day prior to the egg collection
  - Sperm transfer from the male partner to the scientist in the Department of Reproductive Medicine at the ART Laboratory on level 2 of RHW
  - Semen cryopreservation in the andrology lab (if couple using cryopreserved sperm)
  - Sperm preparation in the embryology lab
  - Egg collection procedure in the operating theatre – collection of the eggs and transfer to the container used to transport the eggs to the embryology lab; the observer will need to be advised of the origin of the vaginal bleeding by the doctor performing the egg collection procedure to verify that post-procedure bleeding is from the vaginal wall (needle puncture site) rather than menstrual blood
  - Fertilization of eggs (for both IVF and ICSI) in the embryology lab; embryos to be incubated in the Minc/BT37 incubator (not the Embryoscope as this has gametes from multiple patients in the same chamber)
  - Fertilization check day 1 post egg collection
  - Embryo transfer procedure in the transfer room in the gynaecology clinic on level 2 of RHW
  - Embryo freezing on day 5 or 6 in the embryology lab

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS DOCUMENT IS MANDATORY**

- Discarding of any gametes – requires addition of detergent to discarded dish to ensure destruction of gametes which must be observed in the embryology lab
- The Rabbi, Jewish delegate or associate observer should be accompanied and supervised by hospital staff when accessing restricted clinical areas including operating theatres and Embryology/Andrology Laboratories
- The Rabbi, Jewish delegate or associate observer must comply with the hospital vaccination requirements for hospital category A staff.

#### **6. DOCUMENTATION**

Integrated clinical notes – documentation of the patient's religion and their request to undertake Kosher fertility treatment; documentation of the presence of the Rabbi or his religious delegate

#### **7. EDUCATIONAL NOTES**

Under Jewish law, fertility interventions including IVF are permitted to facilitate pregnancy in married couples who are experiencing difficulty conceiving. The primary concern is the correct identification of sperm, eggs and embryos, any failure in tracing these would have serious implications for the identity of the child. Kosher IVF involves the verification of gametes and integrity of the procedures by having a Jewish witness (the Rabbi or his/her delegate) observe each step of the process. All procedures are supervised to ensure correct identification of sample and thus the continuity of people.

#### **8. RISK RATING**

- Low

#### **9. NATIONAL STANDARD**

- CC- Comprehensive Care

#### **REVISION & APPROVAL HISTORY**

Endorsed at RHW Safety and Quality Committee December 2022

Reviewed and Endorsed Randwick Campus Operating Suite Committee 2 June 2022

**FOR REVIEW: DECEMBER 2027**

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS DOCUMENT IS MANDATORY**