

Australian Medical Association

Name:	
Organisation*:	Australian Medical Association¹

*Please only include the name of the organisation here if the submission reflects the views of the organisation

Section 5.3

Q8. Paragraph 5.3.1 – Should financial transparency be included in this list of protocols?

Yes, it is essential that all participants be fully informed of the expected financial costs of participating in ART.

Section 6.5

Q20. In view of developments in other countries allowing women to receive compensation above medical and travelling expenses for donating eggs, should it be permissible for Australian women to also be compensated for the reproductive effort and risks associated with donating their eggs? (See also Section 13 Surrogacy)

The AMA believes it is inappropriate to offer money or benefits in kind to encourage donation but donors may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses.

Section 6.12

Q28. Should donor and recipient information be completely confidential or do you think that this information should be available to all individuals involved?

In order for the donor-conceived child and their family to be medically informed throughout the child's life, they should be able to access health and genetic information related to the donors.

Section 6.14

Q29. Is it reasonable for a sperm donor to be able to vary or withdraw their consent for donation at any time before insemination or fertilisation? Is the point of treatment commencement or ovarian stimulation a more reasonable point at which a sperm donor can vary or withdraw their consent for donation? (see also Sections 7.3 & 9.6)

¹ For relevant AMA policies, see the AMA *Position Statement on Ethical Issues in Reproductive Medicine 2013* and the AMA *Position Statement on Maternal Decision-Making 2013*.

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- Should the right of gamete donors (or gamete providers for donated embryos) be restricted to the time before a woman begins treatment in anticipation of using specific gametes or receiving specific embryos?

The AMA considers gamete donors should have the right to withdraw consent to donation at any time prior to insemination or fertilisation. Embryo donors should have the right to withdraw consent to donation any time prior to transfer of the embryo into the uterus of the recipient. Consent cannot be withdrawn once the donated gamete or embryo has been used.

Section 11.1

Q49. Are there any circumstances under which it is appropriate to allow sex selection for non-medical purposes? e.g. for family balancing, to replace a lost child, for cultural purposes?

The AMA believes genetic selection should not be undertaken on the basis of sex (except in order to avoid hereditary sex-linked disease).

Section 12.1 – 12.2

Q.3 Under what situations do you think the use of preimplantation genetic diagnosis is ethically acceptable?

The AMA believes preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) should be restricted to fatal or seriously and permanently disabling diseases. Genetic selection should not be undertaken on the basis of sex (except in order to avoid hereditary sex-linked disease) or on the basis of characteristics or traits that are unrelated to disease.

Q56. Do you think that there are gaps in the current ethical guidance in Section 13?

The rights of the surrogate mother need to be clarified and understood by all participants. For example, the AMA advocates that once a surrogate pregnancy has commenced, a doctor's ethical and medical obligations to the surrogate mother and child are the same as those owed to any pregnant woman and her future child. A pregnant woman has the same rights to privacy, to bodily integrity, and to make her own informed, autonomous health care decisions as any other competent individual, consistent with the legal framework of that jurisdiction.

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Section 13.2

Q57. In view of developments in other countries, should there be compensation, more than expenses, for gestational mothers congruent with the reproductive effort contributed?

The AMA believes it is inappropriate to offer money or benefits in kind to encourage surrogacy but they may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses.