

International Federation of Fertility Societies

Policy Statement 1

September 2010

Access to infertility care

Infertility is recognised as a disease process by the World Health Organisation and calls for equity of access and safety between and within nations

The International Federation of Fertility Societies believes in the fundamental principle that all men and women who are affected by infertility should have access to advice, diagnosis and, where possible treatment, irrespective of race, social background or financial status. This principle is set out in detail in two Practice Standards issued by the IFFS (below).

In establishing this principle, the IFFS acknowledges that the availability of health care resources and skills varies considerably between nations and its application must be considered in this context.

Practice standard 2 (2008)

All men and women who are having difficulty in conceiving should be seen by a health care professional who can provide them with pre conceptual advice and, if appropriate, arrange investigations to establish a diagnosis, irrespective of race, social background or financial status.

Practice Standard 4 (2009)

1. **Promote Family Planning:**

To ensure that all primary health-care and family planning facilities are able to provide the widest range of safe and effective family planning methods.

2. **Improve Maternal and Perinatal Health:**

To ensure policies and practices are aimed at improving maternal and perinatal health, especially in resource-poor settings.

3. **Preventing Unsafe Abortion:**

To ensure policies and practices are aimed at providing access to safe abortion including care and contraceptive advice to the fullest extent provided by law.

4. **Control Sexually Transmitted and Reproductive Tract Infections:**

To improve strategies for controlling sexually transmitted infections (STI/STDs) including strategies to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV and other STI/STDs.

5. **Promote Adolescent and Adult Reproductive and Sexual Health:**

To promote optimal sexual health and a positive view of sexuality for women, men and young people.

6. **Gender Issues and Reproductive Rights in Reproductive Health:**

To ensure that reproductive health programmes and policies respect, protect and fulfill human rights and promote gender equity and equality.