

If You are Considering Pro Bono Infertility Treatment (#25)

For some couples, infertility treatment can be expensive and often is not covered by medical insurance. Some clinics have marketed pro bono IVF cycles. If you are considering one of these arrangements, use the following questions to evaluate this option:

Treatment Issues:

- Will there be any differences in your pro bono treatment versus a paying or insured patient?
- Who should you speak with if you have complaints or concerns about the quality of care you are receiving?
- Will any experimental protocol be used in your treatment?
- Is frozen embryo storage and transfer, donor egg or donor sperm included in the free services provided?
- Does the clinic offer just IVF in the pro bono service or is GIFT, micromanipulation (such as ICSI) or assisted hatching included, if needed?
- If you qualify, and complete a pro bono cycle(s), will you be required to participate in any promotional outreach (public speaking, etc.,) on the clinic's behalf?

Financial Issues:

- What do you need to do to qualify? What are the requirements to qualify (medical, marital status, financial, etc.)? What financial forms and information do you have to submit?
- Will the financial information you provide be kept confidential? Who will be reviewing your financial data and who will decide if you qualify for a pro bono cycle?
- Is your financial status re-evaluated periodically? If so, how often?
- Do you get financial assistance per cycle? Do you re-apply for each cycle?
- If your financial situation changes and you no longer qualify for a pro bono cycle, do you need to pay retroactively for a cycle not completed?

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