Access to Infertility Treatment

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#WIGDistrict2District
The Changing Clinical Landscape in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

Teru Jellerette-Nolan, PhD
Associate Director, Medical Science Liaisons
Infertility Defined

Infertility is *common*: 1 in 8 couples

The use of assisted reproductive technology (ART) by infertile couples is *increasing* by 5% to 10% per year.

World Health Organization (WHO):
“a disease of the reproductive system defined by the failure to achieve a clinical pregnancy after 12 months or more of regular unprotected sexual intercourse, or after six months if a woman is 35 years or older”

Women and Men *etiology*: ~50% women and ~50% men

Nearly 2% of live births in the U.S. are a result of assisted reproductive technology (ART). (CDC, 2017)
IVF Procedure

We’ve Come a long Way! Celebrating over 40 years of In Vitro Fertilization (IVF)!
Decline in Female Fertility With Age

Fresh, non-donor IVF success rates by age, 2014*

*For consistency, all percentages are based on cycles started.

Changing Trends in Childbirth

Birth rate (per 1,000 women)

Age at first live birth (y)


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Increasing demand in ART

2. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention: https://www.cdc.gov/art/artdata/docs/excel/FINAL-2017-Clinic-Table-Dataset.xlsx
Impact of COVID-19 on IVF Treatment

“The bottom line is there’s a ticking time clock when it comes to fertility needs, and any interruption is significant—no matter how long or how short.”

ASRM, ACOG and SMFM Issue Joint Statement: Medical Experts Continue to Assert that COVID Vaccines Do Not Impact Fertility

Feb 05, 2021
By: ASRM
Origin: ASRM Bulletin

Alpha
January 2020

March 2021

Delta
August 23, 2021
Environmental and Clinical Trends

**Technology & Process Innovation**
- Rapid development of technologies for automation (e.g. patient management, embryo selection/storage)
- Increase in utilization of telehealth
- Adoption of at-home fertility assessments and support

**Societal & Industry**
- Increasing private capital investments: clinic network consolidation and growth of specialized offerings
- Low cost models/generalists enter market
- Attitudes shifting (LGBTQ+, single women, social freezing)
- Active employer participation in fertility benefits

**Equity & Access**
- Increasing awareness of fertility treatments and routes to parenthood
- Growth in social freezing and fertility preservation
- Fertility tourism continues to grow
- Insufficient federal research funding for fertility

**Regulation/Government**
- Growing acknowledgement of infertility as a disease vs ‘lifestyle’ condition
- Increasing government participation to drive access
- Patient advocates and organizations drive conversations
Access to Infertility Treatment
Who is RESOLVE?

**Mission Statement:** RESOLVE is dedicated to ensuring that all people challenged in their family building journey reach resolution through being empowered by knowledge, supported by community, united by advocacy, and inspired to act.

RESOLVE exists to provide:

- Access to Care
- Advocacy for Coverage
- Access to Support & Community
- Access to Education
- Awareness of All Family Building Options
Access to Care

- Only 1 in 4 access the care they need.
- Cost is the #1 obstacle.
  - A recent survey found women (25-34 years old) accrued $30,000 of debt on average after undergoing infertility treatment.
- Insurance coverage helps level the playing field.
Access to Care

19 States with Infertility Insurance Laws
13 States with IVF Coverage (5 since 2018)
11 States with Fertility Preservation (FP) Coverage (all since 2017)
Recent State Victories

**Delaware**, IVF/FP, 2018

**New York**, IVF/FP, 2019

**New Hampshire**, IVF/FP, 2019

**Utah**, IVF, 2020 (limited to genetic diseases, Medicaid, public employees); FP, 2021 (Medicaid only)

**Illinois**, IVF, 2021 (expanded to same-sex couples, unpartnered individuals)

**Colorado**, IVF/FP, 2020
2022 Priority Legislation

and TBD...
Challenges

The Myth of Cost

- Minimal impact on premiums: less than 1% increase in other states (and does not reflect long-term savings)

- 2021 Mercer Survey of Employers: virtually all (97%) did not experience a significant increase in medical plan costs

“...in perspective of how much we spend on MRIs and CT scans, for example, the cost of the fertility benefit isn’t even a rounding error.”

- Ray Brusca, VP of Benefits, Black and Decker
An act relative to access to fertility care brings “fairness and equality to health care in New Hampshire. Including these benefits in health care plans will help retain young workers, a goal we should all be supportive of.”
--Gov. Chris Sununu, New Hampshire

The Colorado Building Families Act “will help families have children in the wake of COVID-19 and is important for our state's future economic success.”
--Gov. Jared Polis, Colorado

Model legislation is available from RESOLVE.
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