

Dear Patient

Update # 5

The COVID situation is rapidly changing here in Western Australia with the number of confirmed cases up over 2000/day. As our borders re-open to the world today there is a mix of relief, excitement and trepidation amongst the community.

Being a private facility our response to the COVID situation in terms of how we have/are operating the clinic has largely been our own. Our decision making has been evidence based and closely aligned with other day hospitals through our association with Day Hospital's Australia (DHA). Where mandated we have followed The WA State Government and WA Health Department directions and again our response has closely aligned to the COVID-19 Framework for System Alert and Response (SAR) issued by WA Health in January 2022. This document follows a traffic light system rating which reflects the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the community and how health care systems can respond and prepare for that risk. This SAR guides hospitals, clinics and other healthcare facilities in terms of PPE requirements, pre admission testing, screening of staff and elective surgery allowances to name but a few.

As of 5pm today, March 3rd 2022, the WA Health Department is moving to Stage 3- RED level. Some aspects of this red level do affect us but please be assured it is not affecting IVF treatment. We continue to fully operate, offering all services. In many ways this move to RED is a precautionary step to allow healthcare facilities and external providers to such facilities (e.g. pathology centres and drive through testing clinics, laboratories) to be prepared with resources and supplies for the potential increased demand associated with rising COVID numbers in the community.

In addressing the above and taking into account feedback being received from our pre-operative patients, our COVID-19 Management Plan FAQ's has been updated to reflect our decision to **REMOVE** the need for PCR testing 72 hours before admission to our day hospital. This will be effective immediately. The system is fast becoming saturated with our patients experiencing frustrations and delays in trying to get this test completed. We will continue with our RAT on admission for those patients who are undergoing anaesthetic procedures in our day hospital. The process of a RAT on arrival is an approach that is/has been widely adopted in other hospitals and clinics equivalent to our size. It is important to note that there are no mandates or recommendations from the WA State Government or WA Health Department as to the preference for pre-admission screening, that being, a PCR or RAT. A positive RAT is now considered a **CONFIRMED** case of COVID-19.

Our highest priority remains your health and wellbeing and that of our staff. Whilst protecting you, our patients, we need to protect our staff so we can continue to provide our full quota of services to you. Therefore it is of the utmost importance that you communicate with us immediately if you are in cycle or attending for services and begin to feel unwell. Please do not risk your own health and that of the people around you by coming to the clinic. If we are made aware early of your illness we are better positioned to manage your cycle or plan our service to you. Our facility is not equipped to undertake procedures on COVID positive patients.

Where possible many appointments have gone to online so please check with staff as to how this might affect you. Proof of your COVID vaccination status and all other entry requirements, outlined in our FAQ's, remain strictly in place. We have moved to a team model for our non-clinical staff with some people operating from home. This should not affect your ability to make contact with us.

IVF can be a tough journey and such challenging times can heighten feelings of frustration, anxiety and fear. Please know we are here to support you so don't hesitate reach out to us.

Thank you to you all.

Keep Safe, Be Safe.

The Concept Team