

Appendix 2 (as supplied by the authors): Focus group topic guide

Hello, my name is Angela Assal and I am an Endocrinologist at Sunnybrook health Sciences centre, I am not associated with the Mount Sinai Fertility Clinic. I am completing my masters in bioethics at UofT and leading this research project. Nipa Chauhan is also in the bioethics masters program and involved in this project.

I would first like to thank each of you for attending to day, we could not do this research without you and your presence here is invaluable to our project.

First to give a little background. As I'm sure most of you are aware, on December 21, 2015, the Ontario government introduced the Ontario Fertility Program that provides public funding for 5000 cycles of IVF per year. Each fertility clinic in the province was given a portion of that funding based on how much volume that clinic typically sees. An age limit of 43 was also imposed by the government. Otherwise the clinics were not given much direction as to how to administer these funds. We have done a survey asking patients what they think but now we would like to gain a deeper understanding based on some of these responses.

The overall purpose of this research is to gain an understanding from individuals like yourself, who require assisted reproductive technology to conceive, about the Ontario Fertility Program. The two big questions are:

- (1) What are important factors to consider when deciding who should receive publicly-funded fertility treatments and how they should be prioritized?
- (2) What barriers do you or did you face in trying to access publicly-funded fertility treatments.

This is a safe space and everyone should feel comfortable to share their opinions. There are no right or wrong answers. Sometimes there will be disagreement amongst you and that's ok, we are hoping to seek different opinions. We are audio recording this session so that we can review the tapes later to analyze the content. Everyone will remain anonymous, feel free to use a different name for us to address you and put this on your name tag. Since it is being recorded I will ask that only one person speak at a time.

I will ask some general questions to start the discussion and potentially some probing questions. You don't have to answer a question if you don't feel comfortable.

Does anyone have any questions before we begin?

1. What are your thoughts on how the current system, the Ontario Fertility Program, is currently functioning?
2. How do you think the funding should be distributed across the province?
3. If a scoring system is used, what factors should be prioritized?
4. What are barriers to accessing IVF?