

Policy and Guideline Committee

Chairman: Dr MI Cassim

Members: Dr P Le Roux, Dr P Dalmeyer. Dr H Netshidzivani

The objective of the policy and guideline committee was to provide ART institutes and lab personnel with 'best practice' guidelines in accordance with internationally accepted norms and standards.

The guidelines are fairly extensive and have been posted on the SASREG website for easy reference.

A special separate section on guidelines for gamete donation has been included. These guidelines will be reviewed from time to time and updated where necessary. The policy committee also formulated guidelines for the accreditation of IVF units. Clinics were then evaluated by members of SASREG and issued certificates of accreditation if they met the criteria in the guidelines. The policy committee, through Dr P Dalmeyer, has also been actively involved with the Department of Health in assisting with the drafting of special legislation pertaining to the now outdated human embryo and tissue culture act as well as ethical matters pertaining to ART. Draft legislation has been the subject of active debate by SASREG in this regard and several legal acts are close to being finalized.

Strategic objectives for the future include assisting government and ART practitioners with added guidelines for HIV management and low cost affordable ART. Policies regarding donor recruitment agencies and a statistical registry for donor / surrogates and number of successful pregnancies will hopefully be developed as well.