

Report: Subcommittee ART Data Monitoring 2007-2010

Chair: Silke Dyer

Members: Mohamed Cassim, Paul Dalmeyer, Herman Netshidzivhani, Thinus Kruger (ex officio)

Aims: To implement national anonymous ART data monitoring through voluntary participation of ART clinics.

Objectives: To build an ART data register which reports annually on the collective number and outcome of ART procedures conducted in South Africa. All data submitted voluntarily to the register by individual participating centres will be made anonymous and entered into a national data pool. The annual report will not contain any identifying information pertaining to the data of any individual clinic/laboratory (such as annual number of cycles or pregnancy rates). All clinics/laboratories that submitted their annual data will, however, be named and acknowledged in the report.

Completed outputs of the committee:

- Visit to all ART units who expressed interest in national anonymous data monitoring to discuss the process and way ahead. Visits were conducted in conjunction with accreditation visits.
- Naming of the ART register: SARA (South African Register of Assisted Reproductive Techniques)
- Writing a Memorandum of Agreement governing ART monitoring between SARA and participating centres for 2009; legal opinion on MOU obtained.
- Development and circulation of EXCEL spreadsheet for the collection of 2009 data.
- Development of the SARA software program for the collection of 2010 data and beyond in close collaboration with representatives of the South American Register for ART (Red Lara). Modification of the Red Lara program to meet the needs of South African units with input from SASREG committee and ART units.
- 2 Training workshops on the SARA online program with clinicians and embryologists
- Drawing up of a web page on ART data monitoring on the SASREG website
- Repeated communication per email and at national meetings to discuss ART monitoring and get participation and input from all role players
- Attendance, representation and recognition at international meetings on ART monitoring (ESHRE, IFFS and WHO). As a result, there is keen interest among the global community of ART data monitoring in the progress made in South Africa as the 1st sub-Saharan African country to implement data monitoring.

Work in progress:

- Development of operating procedures for voluntary, national ART data monitoring. Although this work has been completed in many ways these are living operating procedures which are adjusted as we move forward.
- Collection of 2009 data. A number of units have already submitted their 2009 data and other units are in the process of collating their data.
- Drawing up of a certificate of SARA membership to be awarded to all units who participate in ART data monitoring in a given year
- Further training workshops on the SARA online program to be conducted in Gauteng and KZN.
- Obtaining login details and passwords for individual units and members of SARA for the online program
- Ongoing communication (telephonic, email) with ART units