

Feedback form

Please provide your contact details below.

Name:	Sarah Hunter
If this feedback is on behalf of an organisation, please name the organisation:	
Please provide a brief description of the organisation if applicable:	
Address/email:	shunter@adhb.govt.nz
Interest in this topic (e.g. user of fertility services, health professional, researcher, member of public):	Convenor of NCCN National Fertility Preservation Guideline Working Group

Please refer to page v for information about:

- Publication of feedback on ACART's website
- Official Information Act requests – possible release of you feedback
- Official Information Act requests – possible release of you name and contact details

We will acknowledge all feedback.

- ☐ I **request** that my feedback be withheld in full or part from publication on ACART's website. (If you wish a part to be withheld, please clearly indicate which part.)
- ☐ I **do not** give permission for my name to be published on ACART's website.
- ☐ I **do not** give permission for my contact details to be published on ACART's website.

If you consider that your feedback, or your name and contact details (if you are submitting on behalf of an organisation), should be withheld under the Act, please state the reasons here:

Questions for response

Question 1

Refer to sections 3 and 4.

- (a) Do you agree with ACART's assessment of the known risks and benefits to health associated with the use of cryopreserved ovarian tissue to restore ovarian function?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Please give reasons for your views.

Assessment is based on an independent review of current literature and includes discussion of potential risks and identified lack of evidence on some points, including lack of longitudinal outcomes data.

- (b) Are there any risks and/or benefits associated with the use of cryopreserved ovarian tissue to restore ovarian function that ACART has not identified or assessed?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, please list below.

Question 2

Refer to section 4.

- (a) Do you agree with ACART's conclusion that the risks associated with the use of cryopreserved ovarian tissue to restore ovarian function falls within a level that is acceptable in New Zealand?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Please give reasons for your views.

The balance of risks and benefits is consistent with other procedures approved in New Zealand (including existing approved assisted reproductive technologies) providing, as the document states, a fully informed consent process is undertaken.

- (b) Please note any other comments below.

Question 3

Refer to section 4.

- (a) Has ACART identified all the relevant areas to monitor the use of cryopreserved ovarian tissue to restore ovarian function?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Please give reasons for your views.

This is a comprehensive review that is consistent with the relevant Act, and international discussions on the topic.

- (b) Are there any other areas ACART should monitor?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Please give reasons for your views.

ACART should consider the costs associated with the process including the initial tissue retrieval, processing and storage – which, although an approved procedure, is currently not funded in New Zealand. This has resulted in inequity of access to preservation of fertility for those with no other option – particularly pre-pubescent girls.

Question 4

Refer to section 5.

- (a) Has ACART identified all the ethical issues relevant to the use of cryopreserved ovarian tissue to restore ovarian function?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Please give reasons for your views.

Use of cryopreserved ovarian tissue for restoration of ovarian function, provided fully informed consent is given (particularly in terms of the risk of transplantation of malignant cells, and low reported birth rates from the procedure), holds no greater ethical concern than other established assisted reproductive technologies.

- (b) Do you agree with ACART's ethical analysis that there are no significant ethical issues associated with the use of cryopreserved ovarian tissue to restore ovarian function?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Please give reasons for your views.

As above.

Question 5

Refer to section 6.

- (a) Do you agree that the use of cryopreserved ovarian tissue to restore ovarian function should become an established procedure?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Please give reasons for your views.

As discussed in the document this procedure is becoming an accepted option for girls/women internationally, with a growing body of evidence supporting its safety and efficacy. This is the only option for fertility preservation for pre-pubertal girls, and as cancer survivorship rates increase this is a very important quality of life consideration.

- (b) Please note any other comments below.

NA

Question 6

Refer to section 6.

Do you agree with ACART's position that the scope for the use of cryopreserved ovarian tissue to restore ovarian function be limited to the woman from whom the tissue was excised, for her own treatment?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Please give reasons for your views.

The risk of transmission of malignant cells, and possible risk to pregnancy of the immunosuppressants required for allo-transplanted tissue make the associated risks too high.

Question 7

Refer to section 6.

Do you have any further comments to share with ACART?

As per Question 3B, the issue of funding/equity of access to the whole process associated with the use of ovarian tissue for restoration of fertility must be addressed for those with no other option for fertility preservation (those with truly no alternative option being a relatively small group).