

Navigating Domestic Surrogacy

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When can it be considered?

Female IP Eligibility

- Functioning ovaries but no uterus.
- A medical reason resulting the inability to carry a pregnancy, and would place the IP or any child at risk.
- Had many unsuccessful attempts at IVF and embryo transfers.
- A history of repeated miscarriage
- 25 years or older.
- comply with home state's surrogacy legislation.
- No criminal convictions.

OR

- same sex couples unable to carry children for medical or social reasons

When can it be considered (cont'd)

Surrogate Eligibility

- She and her partner 25 yrs or older.
- No drug or alcohol abuse
- Is healthy
- No history of pregnancy-related illnesses or complications.
- No significant psychiatric disorder
- No criminal convictions

Finding a Surrogate

- Clinics cannot assist in finding a surrogate
- In Australia it is not legal to advertise for a surrogate or for a person willing to be a surrogate to advertise for themselves.
- All surrogacy arrangements must be altruistic

Surrogacy – Step by Step

Medical Consultation:

The intended parent/s and birth mother (or egg donor/sperm donor if required) must attend a consultation with a Fertility Specialist. Full medical history and blood tests are ordered for all parties involved.

Counseling:

Counseling is required for both the intended parent/s and birth parent/s.

Independent legal advice:

Both parties must have evidence of having had independent legal advice advising of their rights and obligations.

Surrogacy – Step by Step (cont'd)

Legal requirements:

A signed surrogacy arrangement as prepared by your legal representative must be provided to your treating Clinic prior to commencing a treatment cycle.

Clinic Nurse Consultation:

All parties must attend a Nurse consultation prior to commencing a treatment cycle. All parties are given consent forms – must be completed prior to commencement of any treatment.

Surrogacy – Step by Step (cont'd)

IVF treatment cycle:

If the intended parent is using her own eggs, she will undergo an IVF treatment cycle, or

if using donor eggs -the eggs collected will be fertilised with her partner's (or donor) sperm.

The embryo will then be transferred into the uterus of the birth mother and/or frozen for future use.

Surrogacy – Ongoing Care

Birth:

The baby is deemed to be the child of the surrogate until a parentage order is obtained through the Court by the intended parents.

Surrogacy – Legislation

Focus on ensuring the well-being and best interests of the child born

Surrogacy – Facts

- Surrogacy is not eligible for Medicare rebates
- Cycles can be synchronised with the egg donor *intended* parent and *birth* parent to allow for a fresh embryo transfer
- The age of the egg used determines pregnancy rates
- Expected timeframe before commencing treatment from the initial consultation is 6-8 weeks
- Appointment wait times may vary from clinic to clinic