



Position Statement – Sex Selection

flindersfertility Position

flindersfertility will not undertake sex selection (by whatever means) except to reduce the risk of transmission of a serious genetic condition.

Ethical Guidelines - Compliance

Bodies offering assisted reproductive procedures services in Australia must be accredited by the Fertility Society of Australia, which requires compliance with the *National Health and Medical Research Council, Ethical Guidelines on the use of assisted reproductive technology in clinical practice and research (2007)* ("NHMRC Ethical Guidelines") as part of their accreditation process.

flindersfertility complies with the NHMRC Ethical Guidelines.

Ethical Guidelines – Sections 11 and 12

Section 11 - Sex Selection and section 12 – Pre-implantation Genetic Diagnosis of the NHMRC Ethical Guidelines deal with sex selection.

Section 11 states:

11.1 Do not select sex for nonmedical purposes

Sex selection is an ethically controversial issue. The Australian Health Ethics Committee believes that admission to life should not be conditional upon a child being a particular sex. Therefore, pending further community discussion, sex selection (by whatever means) must not be undertaken except to reduce the risk of transmission of a serious genetic condition. See also paragraphs 12.1 and 12.2 on the use of preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) for sex selection.

Section 12.2 states:

12.2 Restrict the use of PGD (Pre-implantation Genetic Diagnosis)

Pending further community discussion (see Appendix C), PGD must not be used for:

- *prevention of conditions that do not seriously harm the person to be born;*
- *selection of the sex of an embryo except to reduce the risk of transmission of a serious genetic condition; or*
- *selection in favour of a genetic defect or disability in the person to be born.*

Serious Genetic Condition

What counts as a serious genetic condition is controversial and is not defined by the NHMRC Ethical Guidelines, however at flindersfertility a serious genetic condition is considered to include:

1. Cystic Fibrosis.
2. Thalassaemia.
3. Sickle Cell Disease.
4. Tay-Sachs.