



## **ASSISTANCE FOR SERODISCORDANT COUPLES SERVICES CHARTER**

### **FONDAZIONE PARACELSO'S COMMITMENT**

Fondazione Paracelso, working with Professor Peyvandi and Dr Semprini, has put together a project for serodiscordant couples (i.e. where the male partner is HIV positive) who wish to have a child and need to use assisted reproduction techniques and seminal lavage to avoid the risk of transmitting the virus to the female partner and the baby.

The program is restricted to serodiscordant couples where the male is haemophilic and HIV positive. Fondazione Paracelso covers the costs for up to 3 cycles. The primary objective of the project is to reduce the costs for the couple as much as possible; at the same time, consistent with the concept of patient centrality which is at the heart of our foundation, we have developed a procedure to accompany couples on their journey to parenthood with the greatest possible care and attention.

This services charter is intended as a description of the steps to be taken.

May each one of you have your wishes come true

Andrea Buzzi  
President



### *THE METHOD*

In the late 1980s, Dr Semprini and his research group perfected a method of eliminating the viral component in the seminal fluid of a man infected with HIV. The practice assures serodiscordant couples of a complete course of assistance with the methods currently available: intrauterine insemination (IUI), in vitro fertilisation (IVF), and intracytoplasmic spermatozoid injection (ICSI).

The medical course to be followed consists substantially of the following stages:

- initial examination at the "A. Bianchi Bonomi" Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre, Milan;
- preliminary diagnostic tests prior to treatment;
- seminal lavage and verification of the removal of the virus; • insemination.

### *WHAT TO DO*

To benefit from the project it is **imperative** to contact Dr Mortarino or Dr Garagiola at the "Angelo Bianchi Bonomi" Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre in Milan on 02.55035414 and make the appointment for the initial examination, which is a **necessary** prerequisite for obtaining assistance from Fondazione Paracelso.

### *WHAT HAPPENS*

- On the first visit, the plan for the course to take place subsequently in Dr Semprini's rooms will be outlined.
- After the diagnostic procedure has been completed, the seminal lavage and check for removal of the virus will be carried out.
- Dr Semprini will evaluate the possibility of a hormone treatment cycle.
- Subsequently, based on the clinical results, there will be an assessment of the most suitable fertilisation technique; the procedure itself will need to be performed at a private medical institution offering day surgery facilities.

### *THE SUPPORT OF FONDAZIONE PARACELSO*

Fondazione Paracelso offers support to serodiscordant couples by covering the following costs:

- examinations in Dr Semprini's rooms;
- seminal lavage;
- freezing of sperm (where necessary);
- insemination using the most appropriate method (IUI, IVF, ICSI);
- pre-insemination ultrasound scans.

In addition, for those coming from outside the city who need to stay in Milan for reasons connected to the procedure, Fondazione Paracelso has living quarters available at its offices. To make use of this hospitality service, contact the office in Milan a few days beforehand on 02.33004126. We also provide for counselling by a **psychologist** to help manage the emotional aspect of this delicate



process, **on request and without cost to the beneficiaries**. Fondazione Paracelso does not bear the costs relating to examinations and checkups after pregnancy is achieved, so as not to erode the financial resources allocated to the project to the detriment of other couples,

**For contacts and information: 0233004126 – [info@fondazioneparacelso.it](mailto:info@fondazioneparacelso.it) – [www.fondazioneparacelso.it](http://www.fondazioneparacelso.it)**

#### *COSTS FULLY BORNE BY THE BENEFICIARIES*

The insemination procedure is performed in a private hospital (it cannot be done in the outpatient clinic). **Due to administrative restrictions, Fondazione Paracelso cannot offer help with expenses of this sort.** There is an agreement between Studio Semprini and the clinic to offer a 20% discount on the fee (estimated cost to the beneficiary is about 1500 euro).

#### *FIGURES TO DATE*

The project continues to attract great interest and enjoy considerable success, given the absence of appropriate assistance in the public health system. *From 2006 to 2015, 36 couples from all over Italy benefitted from the project; 12 childs were born.*

*The foundation funded the project with 176,000 euros.*