



**CANADIAN FERTILITY AND ANDROLOGY SOCIETY**  
**SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE FERTILITÉ ET D'ANDROLOGIE**

**Position Statement on Minimum Qualifications for Physicians Offering Assisted  
Reproductive Care**

*February 2014*

The provision of tertiary infertility care including IVF and the use of gonadotropins requires specialized expertise and training. The Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS) is concerned that there are physicians offering to care for couples with infertility who do not have sufficient training.

Fellowship training in reproductive endocrinology and infertility (REI) has existed for over 20 years. These fellowships equip physicians with the knowledge, understanding and skills to safely and appropriately manage patients with infertility. Furthermore, they provide training with regard to the potential pitfalls and complications that may result from controlled ovarian hyperstimulation, oocyte retrieval and embryo transfer.

These complications may include severe ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome, high order multiple pregnancy, injury to internal organs, massive hemorrhage and even death.

The concept of a subspecialty in reproductive endocrinology and infertility (REI) was introduced by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) in 1989 and existed even earlier than that in the United States. There are now numerous RCPSC accredited REI fellowship training programs in Canada and many equivalent accredited programs in other countries.

The CFAS recognizes that there are some physicians without formal REI fellowship training who have been offering high quality and safe fertility services including IVF based on continuous practice in the specialty dating back to at least 2004. In some cases, these individuals are pioneers in the field and have helped mold the profession as we practice it today. The CFAS recognizes these physicians as fertility specialists who are competent and capable of providing assisted



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reproductive care.

However, aside from these cases, the CFAS believes that any physician wishing to provide assisted reproductive care should be fellowship trained, and that the minimum standard for offering such care in Canada should be completion of an accredited two to three year fellowship training program in REI.