Frequently Asked Questions

These frequently asked questions were developed to support the Fall 2006 Workshops on Licensing and Regulation of Controlled Activities under the *Assisted Human Reproduction Act*, and the Obligations of Licensees regarding Health Reporting Information.

Q1: Why were these workshops held?

A1: Health Canada has held a number of workshops to gather information on assisted human reproduction (AHR) activities and AHR-related issues to support the development of regulations under the *Assisted Human Reproduction Act* (AHR Act). These workshops focussed on:

- the conduct of controlled activities
- licensing of controlled activities, licensing of premises, and licensing administration
- health reporting information
- health reporting information registry

Q2: When were these workshops held?

A2: There were three workshops held in three different cities in the fall of 2006: November 24-25 in Montreal, December 1-2 in Toronto, and December 8-9 in Vancouver. The same material was covered in all three workshops.

Q3: Who was invited to these workshops?

A3: Individuals from medical fertility clinics, private practices and laboratories, who have knowledge and/or experience related to AHR activities and services, were invited to these workshops.

Q4:What issues were addressed?

A4: Participants discussed various issues related to the four workshop topics, including but not limited to: laboratory controlled activities, clinical controlled activities, designation and qualifications of the licensing of controlled activities, licensing of premises, licensing administration, collection of health reporting information, retention and destruction of health reporting information, disclosure of health reporting information to the agency, and the personal health information registry.

Q5: How will Health Canada use the comments and information gathered at the workshops and what are the next steps?

A5: Health Canada will use the information gathered from the workshops to assist in the development of the regulatory proposals under the AHR Act. The next step will be to draft proposed regulations which will be published in Canada Gazette Part I. This will give Canadians another opportunity to provide comments and feedback.

Q6: Do the opinions expressed in the workshop report reflect the views of Health Canada?

A6: The report is an "as-was-said" account of the workshops and as such the comments and opinions expressed in the report are those of the workshop participants and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of Health Canada.

Q7: Will there be other workshops or consultations on these topics?

A7: As part of the regulatory process, all regulatory proposals are published for public comment in Canada Gazette, Part I. Information concerning these regulatory initiatives will be posted on Health Canada's website at: www.healthcanada.gc.ca/reproduction.

Q8: What do you mean by controlled activities?

A8: Under the AHR Act, there are prohibited activities, which are activities considered unacceptable such as cloning, and controlled activities, which are those that can be undertaken as long as they are conducted with a licence and according to the regulations. The controlled activities addressed in the workshops dealt specifically with assisted reproduction procedures referred to in section 10 of the Act, and in particular as they pertain to people using their own gametes for their own reproductive use. These procedures include: semen/sperm obtaining, clinically retrieving sperm, semen/sperm processing, controlled ovarian hyperstimulation, oocyte retrieval, oocyte processing, *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) with insemination (conventional IVF), IVF with intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), *in vitro* embryo culture and assessment, and *in vitro* embryo transfer.