

Appendix D: Interview Guide

D1. Interview guide(for healthcare providers)

Introduction: Thank you for agreeing to participate in this interview. Brief personal information about you will be asked before the main components of this interview (this would aid segregating participants views accordingly). We will be discussing the factors that patients consider before choosing IVF, ethical issues that arise from IVF, equity and accessibility to IVF treatment. All responses will be kept anonymous. Do you have any questions before we begin?

Preps

1. I would like to know the initials of your name (to be able to identify your responses from others)
2. What is your level of education?
3. What is your professional rank?
4. How long have you been involved in IVF treatment?

Factors that patients consider before deciding on IVF treatment

1. How do social and cultural background of patients influence IVF treatment?
2. How do economic factors affect IVF treatment?
3. What medical factors usually lead patients to undergo IVF treatment?
4. What other fertility treatments are available before a patient undergo IVF treatment?

Accessibility of IVF

1. What complains do couples make about the cost of IVF?
2. In your opinion, why is IVF so expensive? What factors contribute to the high cost?
3. Are there any measures that could be taken to make IVF more affordable for patients?
4. What advice would you give to couples who are considering IVF but are concerned about the high cost?
5. Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience with the cost of IVF?

Equitable Access

1. Can you identify any groups of people who face greater barriers to accessing IVF treatment?
2. What socio-economic factors play a role in determining who has access to IVF treatment?
3. Some argue that IVF treatment should be reserved for those who have medical need for it, rather than for those who simply desire to have children. What is your perspective on this argument?
4. Which policies are in place to ensure that IVF treatment is accessible to all who need it?
5. In your opinion, what can be done to ensure that IVF treatment is accessible to all who require it, regardless of socio-economic status or other factors?
6. Some countries have government-funded IVF treatment programs. Do you think this is an effective way to ensure that IVF treatment is accessible to everyone who require it?
7. How do you think we can ensure that fairness is taken into account when making decisions about who has access to IVF treatment?

Ethical issues

1. In your opinion, what are some of the ethical issues that arise from IVF service provision in Ghana?

Probes:

2. How do you ascertain that a patient understands 'informed consent' in the context of IVF treatment?
3. What components of an informed consent is explained to patient before IVF treatment?

Probes:

4. What information do you give during the informed consent process?
5. Which language is used during the informed consent process?
6. How long does it take for patients to make a decision about IVF during the informed consent process?
7. What were the potential risks and benefits that you inform patients about IVF treatment?

8. What factors affect the success rates of IVF treatment?
9. What potential alternatives to IVF are available ?
10. What concerns or questions are raised by patients before undergoing IVF treatment?
11. Are male partners involved in the informed consent process?
12. How similar or different is informed consent process from other medical-surgical procedures?
13. Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience with informed consent in IVF?

Embryo Ownership

1. What discussion goes into embryo storage between the patient and the provider?
Probes:
2. Does your facility have embryo in storage?
3. In your opinion, who should have ownership of the stored embryo in IVF?
4. What factors should be taken into account when determining ownership of the stored embryo in IVF?
5. In cases where there is disagreement between the couples involved regarding ownership of the stored embryo, how do you think such disputes should be resolved?
6. Some argue that the embryo has its own rights and should not be treated as mere property. What is your perspective on this argument?

Opinion on hot topics on ethical issues in IVF

1. How do you think IVF affects the rights of the child to be born?
2. What is your view on commercialization of human embryos?
3. What are the measures in place in the disposal of human embryos?
4. How do you deal with the risk of multiple pregnancy in IVF treatment?
5. Do you believe that access to IVF should be limited in any way?

Conclusion: Thank you for taking the time to participate in this interview. Your input will be valuable in understanding the issues surrounding IVF treatment and identifying potential solutions to ensure that IVF treatment is improved.

D2. Interview guide (for bioethicist)

Introduction:

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this interview. Brief information about you will be asked before the main components of this interview (this would aid segregating participants views accordingly). We will be discussing accessibility, affordability, and equity in IVF treatment and ethical issues confronting IVF treatment. All responses will be kept anonymous.

Preps

1. What is the initials of your name (to be able to identify your responses from another?)
2. What field is your work?
3. Are you a trained Bioethicist?
4. How long have you been a bioethicist?
5. Do you provide consultation services to IVF clinics or reproductive medicine centers?
6. Do you have personal or familial experience with IVF treatment.
7. Do you have any questions before we begin?

Accessibility, affordability, and equity in IVF treatment

1. The cost of IVF treatment is unusually high, Why should all be concerned about the cost of high IVF?
2. Some argue that IVF treatment should be reserved for those who have medical need for it, rather than for those who simply desire to have children. What is your perspective on this argument?
3. In your opinion, what can be done to ensure that IVF treatment is accessible to all who need it, regardless of socio-economic status or other factors?
4. Some countries have government-funded IVF treatment programs. Do you think this is an effective way to ensure that IVF treatment is accessible to everyone who requires it?
5. How do you think we can ensure that fairness is taken into account when making decisions about who has access to IVF treatment?
6. Which effective policies or practices are needed to ensure that IVF treatment is accessible to everyone who requires it?

Hot topics of ethical issues confronting IVF treatment

1. How do you think IVF affects the rights of the child to be born?
2. What is your view on commercialization of embryos?
3. Should disposal of embryos occur at all? Why?
4. Do you believe that access to IVF should be limited in any way?
5. Are there any areas in which the legal and regulatory framework could better serve patients and providers in the IVF industry?

Probes:

6. How do you think the legal and regulatory framework available impact the accessibility and affordability of IVF in Ghana?
7. How do you think the legal and regulatory framework affect the quality of care provided during IVF treatment?
8. Is there anything else you would like to share about the legal and regulatory framework surrounding IVF in Ghana?

Conclusion: Thank you for taking the time to participate in this interview. Your input will be valuable in understanding the issues surrounding legal and regulatory framework of IVF, fairness in accessing IVF treatment and identifying potential solutions to ensure that IVF treatment is accessible to all who need it.

D3. Interview guide (for lawyer)

Introduction:

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this interview. Brief information about you will be asked before the main components of this interview (this would aid segregating participants views accordingly). We will be discussing about the legal and regulatory framework surrounding, embryo disposal and litigation relating to IVF treatment. All responses will be kept confidential and anonymous.

Preps

1. What is the initials of your name? (to be able to identify your responses from another)
2. What field is your work?
3. Are you a licensed law practitioner?
4. How long have been practicing law?
4. Do you have any direct financial or personal affiliation with the IVF industry
5. Are you currently representing parties involved in legal disputes related to IVF treatment.
6. Do you have any questions before we begin?

Legality and regulation in IVF treatment

1. What peculiar laws are in place regarding Assisted Reproductive Technology and IVF in Ghana.
2. What regulations binds IVF services in Ghana?
3. Which areas of assisted reproductive technology often do litigation occur?
4. Are there any areas in which the legal and regulatory framework could better serve patients and providers in the IVF industry?

Probes:

5. How do you think the legal and regulatory framework affects the quality of care provided during IVF treatment?
6. Is there anything else you would like to share about the legal and regulatory framework surrounding IVF in Ghana?

Hot topics of ethics and legal issues confronting IVF treatment

1. Remaining embryo may be disposed after IVF treatment cycles. Should disposal of embryos occur at all?

1. In your opinion, do you think IVF affects the rights of the child to be born?

2. What is your view on commercialization of human embryos?

3. Do you believe that access to IVF should be limited in any way?

Conclusion: Thank you for taking the time to participate in this interview. Your input will be valuable in understanding the issues surrounding legal and regulatory framework of IVF.