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Dear SCCRM Family,

The current Coronavirus crisis has greatly impacted the ability of fertility clinics across the country to provide ongoing care to their patients. This situation is constantly changing as new data emerge regarding the number of new cases reported and has been found to be unique to each part of the country. We have been monitoring these changes closely and have been listening to our state and local officials as well as the top public health and infectious disease scientists when making decisions about resuming normal treatment for our patients. We will act in accordance with the recommendations of these experts in conjunction with the state of the conditions in our local area. Maintaining the safety of our patients and staff is essential to allowing treatment in any form to resume.

At this time it looks like we may be able to begin treatment cycles of all types around May 1. It appears that the peak of cases in Orange County will be behind us at that point. To date there have been roughly 1400 reported cases for our population of 3.2 million people which is far less than most other parts of the country. We can attribute this to our governor's decision to close down the state earlier than any other state and the compliance of our citizens relative to adhering to State and local guidelines of "social distancing" and "safe at home" practices. We understand that Infertility is a disease, and for many couples it is time sensitive. As we see every day, our patients' suffering is acute and real. Having children is fundamental to humanity, and we have dedicated our careers to treating the disease of Infertility.

SCCRM and **Ovation® Fertility** responded very quickly in response to COVID-19 by implementing strict sanitizing practices, and will continue to take the following steps:

1. Screening of all patients for exposure and risk factors for SARS-CoV-2 / COVID-19. Patient Temperatures are taken before they enter our lobby. No patients who fail screening will be seen in our facilities. If a patient becomes quarantined or sick from COVID-19, their treatment will be cancelled.
2. Patients are to come to our offices unaccompanied.
3. We continue to follow CDC guidelines for our staff in managing any possible exposure and are all subject to a temperature check prior to commencing work.
4. We have structured appointments so that only 1 patient is in the waiting room at a time in according to CDC guidance on social distancing
5. Our procedures are performed in dedicated rooms with sterile or disinfected equipment. One case at a time, one room at a time. Procedure and operating rooms are disinfected between cases.

We remain fully committed to our patients and have laid out our plans for continued fertility care:

1. All care will be subject to the efforts to avoid community spread as described above.
2. All care will be subject to changing conditions as the pandemic evolves.
3. Consultations will continue to be made available on telemedicine platforms.
4. We will continue to streamline and limit visits for routine blood work as well as hCG testing and Ob ultrasounds.
5. Before initiating procedures or treatments, patients will be counseled about the known and unknown risks of SARS-CoV-2 / COVID-19. An acknowledgement will be signed in advance of treatment.
6. Our paradigms include: Healthy people should not be denied access to care if it does not unduly threaten public health or drain resources from the healthcare system. Patients have the autonomy to assess and accept reasonable risk. Access to care and having children are fundamental to our mission.
7. This is not business as usual. We are offering patients sensible advice. For young patients with a good prognosis, delaying treatment may be the most prudent course of action.
8. We will continue to offer all our autologous treatments: IUI, IVF, FET. Patients will have appropriate counseling before initiating these treatments.

9. Importantly IUI and FET cycles can be accomplished with minimal visits and resources.
10. We will continue to offer egg preservation.
11. We will continue to perform D&C procedures for patients with miscarriage.

We recognize that these decisions may not be universally embraced and acknowledge that there may be differences of opinion among us. Our goal is to serve our patients, staff, and community in the most responsive and responsible way possible. Working together we will get through this.

Thank you,

Robert E. Anderson, M.D