



Robert E. Anderson, M.D.
361 Hospital Road, Suite 333
Newport Beach, CA 92663
PH: (949) 642-8727 FAX: (949) 642-5413
www: socialfertility.com Email: info@socialfertility.com

Resuming Care at SCCRM

5-6-2020

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 unique to each part of the country and is constantly changing as new data emerge regarding the number of new cases reported. 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 allow treatment in any form to resume.

SCCRM and **Ovation® Fertility** responded very quickly in response to COVID-19 by implementing appropriate office procedures and protocols designed to ensure the safety of our patients and staff. As we resume all fertility treatments, the following measures will be employed:

1. Screenings of all patients for exposure and risk factors for SARS-CoV-2 / COVID-19 will be conducted.
 - All patients will be required to wear a face mask:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>
 - Patients will have their temperature taken before they enter our lobby.
 - Patients will be assessed for COVID-19 risk factors, including exposure to anyone suspected of or known to be infected with COVID-19, and symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, body aches and chills.
 - No patient who fails screening will be seen in our facilities. If a patient becomes quarantined or sick from COVID-19, their treatment will be canceled.
 - Patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 will be required to inform our office and provide 2 “negative” test results from their primary care provider in order to return to our office for resumption of care.
 - Upon starting treatment, patients will be required to participate in COVID-19 testing when available. Orders will be provided for local testing locations. In-office testing will be provided once COVID-19 test kits become readily available.
2. Determining cycle starts for out-of-town patients will be based on place of origin and method of travel:
 - Patients who will be flying will need to quarantine for 14 days prior to starting their cycle.
 - Patients who will be driving may be able to start their cycle sooner if traveling from a low risk area.
3. We have structured appointments so that only 1 patient is in the waiting room at a time, in accordance with CDC guidance on social distancing. Patients will be asked to remain in their car until they are called up at their appointment time:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>
4. Patients are to come to our offices unaccompanied. **Only the primary patient will be allowed in the office.**
5. Patients are strongly encouraged to follow CDC Guidelines for protecting themselves and others:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention-H.pdf>
6. We will continue to follow the CDC guidelines as they apply to our staff. This will include daily screening for risk of exposure, temperature checks and the use of appropriate PPE. When readily available, COVID testing will be used on an ongoing basis to minimize the risk of exposure in the office setting.
7. All of our procedures will be performed in dedicated rooms with sterile or disinfected equipment. All rooms will be completely sanitized before use by the next patient. The lobby areas will be disinfected throughout the day using the CDC guidelines with EPA registered disinfectants:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

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 available on telemedicine platforms.
4. We will continue to streamline and limit visits for routine bloodwork 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 before treatment.
6. Our approach to resuming treatment is based on the following: Healthy people should not be denied access to care if it does not unduly threaten the 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 starting these treatments.
9. We will resume third party procedures, including egg donation and gestational surrogacy, with appropriate counseling.
10. IUI and FET cycles can be accomplished with minimal visits and resources.
11. We will continue to offer egg cryopreservation (freezing).
12. We will continue to perform D&C procedures for patients with miscarriage, operative hysteroscopy and laparoscopy.
13. We will continue to perform office hysteroscopy and endometrial biopsy procedures.

Recent ASRM and CDC Guidelines have provided a mechanism for compliance and continued care. We will provide our patients with updates as additional guidelines become available.

Robert E. Anderson, M.D.