Definitions

Artificial Insemination (AI):
AI is the procedure of transferring semen into the reproductive system of a woman. This technique comprises artificial insemination with husband’s (AIH) or with donor sperm (AID).

Assisted Hatching:
Assisted hatching allows easier release of the embryo from its shell (zona pellucida), helping implantation and increasing the pregnancy rate.

Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART)
For the purpose of these guidelines, ART would be taken to encompass all techniques that attempt to obtain a pregnancy by manipulating the sperm or/and oocyte outside the body, and transferring the gamete or embryo into the uterus.

Blastocyst
An embryo with a fluid-filled blastocele cavity (usually developing by five or six days after fertilization).

Controlled ovarian hyperstimulation (COH)
Medical treatment to induce the development of multiple ovarian follicles to obtain multiple oocytes at follicular aspiration.

Cryopreservation
Freezing and storage of gametes, zygotes or embryos.

Donation of Gametes
Donation of gametes is a process by which a person voluntarily offers his or her gametes for the process of procreation.

Ectopic pregnancy
A pregnancy in which implantation takes place outside the uterine cavity
**Embryo**
Embryo is defined as the fertilized ovum that has begun cellular division and continued development up to the blastocyst stage till the end of eight weeks.

**Embryo donation**
The transfer of an embryo resulting from gametes that did not originate from the recipient and/or her partner.

**Embryo transfer (ET)**
Procedure in which embryo(s) are placed in the uterus or fallopian tube.

**Fertilization**
The penetration of the ovum by the spermatozoon and fusion of genetic materials resulting in the development of a zygote.

**Foetus**
The product of conception starting from completion of embryonic development (at eight completed weeks after fertilization) until birth or abortion.

**Foetal Reduction**
Foetal reduction is an invasive/interventional process by which a higher order multiple pregnancy is reduced to a single or twin pregnancy in order to improve the perinatal outcome.

**Gamete**
Oocytes and sperm are called gametes.

**Hatching**
It is the process that precedes implantation by which an embryo at the blastocyst stage separates from the zona pellucida.
**ICSI (Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection)**
In ICSI, a single sperm is injected into the cytoplasm of the ovum to effect fertilization, before the fertilized ovum is transferred to the uterus of the woman.

**Implantation**
The attachment and subsequent penetration by the zona-free blastocyst (usually in the endometrium) which starts five to seven days following fertilization.

**Infertility**
Failure to conceive after at least one year of unprotected coitus

**Intrauterine Insemination (IUI)**
Intrauterine Insemination involves the introduction of sperm into the uterus of the woman. In IUI, specially prepared sperm are injected into the uterine cavity via a fine cannula passed through the cervix. At this site, the sperm are near the uterine entrance of each of the two fallopian tubes and thus have a shorter distance to swim in order to reach the oocyte(s) released at the time of ovulation.

**IVF-ET (In vitro Fertilization-Embryo Transfer)**
In vitro Fertilization-Embryo Transfer (IVF-ET) is the fertilization of an ovum outside the body and the transfer of the fertilized ovum to the uterus of a woman.

**Oocyte donation**
An ART procedure performed with third-party oocytes.

**Ovum/Oocyte**
Ovum/oocyte is the female gamete produced in the ovary.
Pre–implantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD)
Pre–implantation Genetic Diagnosis is a technique in which an embryo formed through IVF is tested for specific genetic disorders (e.g. cystic fibrosis) or other characteristics prior to implantation.

Preterm Birth
A birth which takes place after at least 20, but less than 37, completed weeks of gestation. This includes both live births and stillbirths. Births are counted as birth events (e.g. a twin or triplet live birth is counted as one birth event).

Semen
A thick, whitish fluid discharged through the penis during ejaculation containing spermatozoa, secretions from the testes, seminal vesicles, prostate gland, bulbo-urethral and other glands associated with the male reproductive system.

Semen Donor
Semen obtained from third party for purpose of inseminating the wife in cases where husband is unable to produce healthy semen.

Sperm
Sperm are the male gametes produced in the testicles.

Spontaneous abortion
Spontaneous loss of a clinical pregnancy before 20 completed weeks of gestation or, if gestational age is unknown, a weight of 500 g or less.

Surrogacy
Surrogacy is an arrangement in which a woman agrees to carry a pregnancy that is genetically unrelated to her and her husband, with the intention to carry it to term and hand over the child to the genetic parents for whom she is acting as a surrogate.
**Surrogacy with Oocyte Donation**

Surrogacy with oocyte donation is a process in which a woman allows insemination by the sperm/semen of the male partner of a couple with a view to carry the pregnancy to term and hand over the child to the couple.

**Zygote**

Fertilized oocyte prior to first cell division is called zygote