Guidelines of Qualification and Experience Requirements for Licensure of Embryology Profession

Version 1-2022

V1 Effective: February 2022

National Health Regulatory Authority:

After reviewing Decree-Law No. (2) for the year 1987 regarding the practice of nondoctors and pharmacists allied health professions,

And Decision No. (24) of 2016 regarding the issuing of Allied Health Professionals list

And Decree No. 23 for the year 2017 on the standards and requirements for the licensing of health professionals.

And Decision No. (2) for the year 2019 on the classification of health care facilities, and the required health, technical, safety and preparation conditions to be met in these facilities.

And Decree No. (62) for the year 2019

Licensing Conditions for the use of Artificial Fertilization and Assisted Reproductive Techniques

Based on the approval of the Chief Executive Officer of the National Health Regulatory Authority,

Introduction

IVF laboratory

Medical laboratory specialized in dealing with eggs, sperm, and embryos where they will be retrieved, fertilized, cultured, analyzed, monitored, frozen, thawed, and cared for by a team of experts.

Applied science

Applied Science includes the following:

Cell Biology, Developmental Biology, Embryology, Human Reproductive Biology (NHRA)

Biology

Biology is one of the main disciplines, which studies living things and their vital processes. The field deals with all the physicochemical aspects of life.

It is the natural science that explores the physical structure, molecular interactions, chemical composition, development, physiological mechanism, and evolution of living matter.

Cell Biology

Cell biology is the study of cell structure and function, and it revolves around the concept that the cell is the fundamental unit of life. cell biology focuses on the structure and function of a cell, from the most general properties shared by all cells to the unique, highly intricate functions particular to specialized cells.

Consists of Cytogenetic, Cell physiology, Cytochemistry, Cytotaxonomy, Cytopathology, Cytoecology.

Qualification and Experience Requirements for Allied Medical Professions Working in IVF laboratories:

1. **Embryologist (Also Known as IVF Technologist):**

   Qualification: Bachelor's degree in medical laboratory science/Applied Science* **with emphasis** in Human Embryology from a recognized university.

   **Note: Applied Science includes the following:

   Cell Biology, Developmental Biology, Embryology, Human Reproductive Biology.

   OR

   Bachelor's degree in one of medical laboratory sciences **in addition** to a master's degree or higher in Embryology.

   Experience: For Non-Bahrainis, Minimum of two (2) years of licensed work experience post qualification

Permitted Healthcare Professions Services for Allied Medical Professions Working in IVF laboratories:

1. **License Re-categorization:** for **Bahraini nationals only**, healthcare professional license can be re-categorized from medical laboratory technologist to Embryologist if the applicant is:
   - Licensed as medical laboratory technologist.
   - Had obtained additional qualification from accredited institution/ university in IVF technology (e.g., Advanced Diploma/ MSc degree)

2. **Privilege service:** issuing an approval letter to practice Embryology as privilege for licensed medical laboratory technologist after providing the below:
   - 50 or more hands-on successful cases. (With logbook signed by a licensed Embryologist or Consultant Obstetrics and Gynecology specialized in IVF/ infertility)
   - 2 years' work experience in embryology laboratory.
   - Competency letter from Direct Supervisor/ Medical Director/ Chief of medical staff.
   - Working under supervision of licensed Embryologist or Consultant Obstetrics and Gynecology specialized in IVF/ infertility.

- **This option will be available to End of June 2022, to correct the situation of Licensed Medical Laboratory Technologist working already in Bahrain.**