

# **Providing an Ongoing Support System for IVF Patients in the USA**

**Karen Merryman, RN, LNC  
IVF Coordinator  
West Virginia University  
Center for Reproductive Medicine  
[merrymank@wvuhealthcare.com](mailto:merrymank@wvuhealthcare.com)**

# Care Coordination

Choosing the right person for the job



# Care Coordination (con't)

## WARNING!

The demands of this role are  
intense and emotional!



# Care Coordination (con't)

Infertility patients:

Emotional

Fragile

Typically well-educated

Very possibly running out of time!

# Care Coordination (con't)

The Coordinator must understand:

Reproductive biology

Education techniques

Counseling

Administration

# 2 Models

- Medical Model
  - Physician
  - Physician Extender
    - Nurse Practitioner
    - Physician Assistant

Master of skills

Procedure driven: increase the productivity for the MD, NP, PA

Benefits: business and time advances for the practice



# 2 Models (con't)

- Nursing model
  - (Independent)

Master of coordination

Assessment driven: team approach,  
more holistic

Benefits: excels in patient  
communication and simplification of  
complex technical information



# Benefits of Incorporating the Nursing Model

Compassionate problem solver

Multitasker

Liaison

Empathetic liaison

Advocate

Confidant

Educated in endocrinology, andrology, embryology,  
gynecology, psychology and genetics

Allows for long term patient success and satisfaction,  
which impacts practice goals and team work



# Roles of the Infertility Nurse

Explaining

Teaching

Reaching out

Verifying

Assessing stress levels

Acting as a conduit between doctor and patient

Answering questions that the patient was afraid to ask the doctor

Holding a hand

Giving honest feedback

# Day to Day Roles and Responsibilities

Calendar of treatment cycle

Medication teaching

Coordinates a plan of care

Explains clinical and laboratory complexities

Offers compassion and support

Charting

Returning calls

Giving Instructions

Caring for the client

“The nurse is the voice of hope” (Parrett, 2011).

# The role is demanding and ever changing...



**...but the rewards are immeasurable!**



**Addison**



**Sydney**

# References

- Atri, Sujatha. (2011). Role of Nurse in Invitro Fertilization. *The Nursing Journal of India.*, CII(4).
- Clemmer, M. (2014). *Embryos* [Image format].
- Garner, C. (1991). *Principles of Infertility Nursing* (pp 172-173). Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.
- Heller, M. (2014). Study Links Intense Job Demands to Breaking the Rules. Retrieved September 18, 2014 from <http://ww2.cfo.com/workplace-issues/2014/09/study-links-intense-job-demands-breaking-rules/>
- Ledoux, R. (2014). Baby Resource. *How Do You Get Pregnant?* [Online image]. Retrieved from September 18, 2014 from <http://babyresource.com/getting-pregnant/how-do-you-get-pregnant/>
- Parrett, S. (2011). The Role of the Nurse in your Fertility Treatment Team. *Resolve, for the journey & beyond*. Retrieved from <http://www.resolve.org/about-infertility/medical-conditions/the-role-of-the-nurse-in-your-fertility-treatment-team.html>
- Payne, D. (2012). Physician Assistant Profession Six Core Competencies [Online image]. Retrieved September 18, 2014 from <http://physician-assistant-ed.com/blog/>
- Prendergast, J. (2010). Recruitment – 10 Key Steps To Getting The Right Person, First Time! [Online image]. Retrieved September 18, 2014 from <http://tweakyourbiz.com/management/2010/01/26/recruitment-10-key-steps-to-getting-the-right-person-first-time/>