

Singapore introduces pre-implantation genetic testing as clinical service

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To continue safeguarding patient safety and ensuring appropriate standards of care, the Ministry of Health (MOH) in Singapore will transit pre-implantation genetic testing for monogenic/ single gene defects (PGT-M) and pre-implantation genetic testing for chromosomal structural rearrangements (PGT-SR) from a pilot programme to regulated clinical services.

The introduction of PGT-M and PGT-SR as clinical services allows patients who require these services to potentially access a larger selection of providers, beyond those in the pilot programme.

For couples undergoing Assisted Reproduction (AR) treatment, PGT-M and PGT-SR services will continue to be provided by the existing providers that meet the regulatory requirements, as well as new providers when they receive approval. There is no change to the criteria for couples who wish to undergo PGT-M and PGT-SR as these services should only be carried out for couples at risk of passing on serious genetic disorders.

Hospitals and clinics offering AR services, and clinical laboratories that currently offer or wish to offer PGT-M and PGT-SR will require approval from the MOH to offer these services and comply with the relevant regulatory terms and conditions under the Private Hospitals and Medical Clinics Regulations (PHMCR).

As of 1 May 2021, MOH has received nine applications from hospitals, and clinics offering AR services and one clinical laboratory offering PGT-M and PGT-SR. The list of approved AR centres that eligible patients can approach for the PGT-M and PGT-SR services will be available on the MOH website.