



GLOSSARY:

Terms Related to Fertility Treatments

Key Terms	Definitions
Fertility Treatments	<p>Medical procedures and medications that help people conceive a child, such as assisted reproductive technology (ART) (defined as fertility treatments in which eggs or embryos are handled in the laboratory with the purpose of establishing a pregnancy, such as in vitro fertilization) and non-ART fertility treatments (defined as fertility drugs that induce or enhance ovulation in women and are used with timed intercourse or intrauterine insemination, but with no intention of performing ART).</p>
Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART)	<p>ART is defined as all fertility treatments in which either eggs or embryos are handled to help achieve a pregnancy. Some types of ART are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● In Vitro Fertilization (IVF): the <u>most common and effective ART procedure</u>.● Intrafallopian Transfer (<u>gamete intrafallopian transfer</u> [GIFT] or <u>zygote intrafallopian transfer</u> [ZIFT]): leverages laparoscopic surgery to deliver gametes (eggs and sperm) or zygotes (fertilized eggs) directly to the fallopian tube.● Frozen Embryo Transfer (FET): involves thawing IVF frozen embryos and transferring them to a woman's uterus.● Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI): a fertilization technique that involves injecting a single sperm directly into the center of an egg using a tiny needle.● Gestational Surrogacy: an arrangement where a person with a uterus carries and delivers a child for another couple or person (intended parent[s]).

In Vitro Fertilization (IVF)	In vitro fertilization (IVF) is where eggs are taken from a person's ovaries and fertilized with sperm in a laboratory. The resulting fertilized egg (embryo) may be placed into the uterus to establish a pregnancy. IVF is responsible for the birth of approximately 2.3% of babies born in the U.S. each year . It involves surgically removing eggs from a person's ovaries or using eggs that have been previously frozen, combining them with sperm in a lab to make embryos, and then returning embryos into that person's uterus, transferring them in another person's uterus (such as a surrogate or for reciprocal IVF), freezing them for later use, or donating them to another person.
Intrauterine insemination (IUI)	A procedure that places sperm into a woman's uterus around the time of ovulation.
Egg Donation	Egg donation is a process whereby a female patient (egg donor) gives eggs to another female (recipient) to allow the recipient to have a child. To donate eggs, the donor must be given medications to develop multiple eggs over a single cycle.
Ethical IVF	“Ethical IVF” is often used as a political tool to justify limiting standard practices like genetic testing or embryo creation. These restrictions can reduce success rates and raise costs, particularly harming older patients, LGBTQ+ individuals, and single parents. For more on “ethical IVF,” see, Just the Facts: ‘Restorative Reproductive Medicine’ and ‘Ethical IVF’ are Misleading Terms That Threaten Access .
Fertility Preservation	According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services , fertility preservation is the process of saving or protecting eggs, sperm, or reproductive tissue so that a person can use them to have biological children in the future.
Infertility	The American Society for Reproductive Medicine defines “infertility” as a disease, condition, or status characterized by any of the following:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The inability to achieve a successful pregnancy based on a patient's medical, sexual, and reproductive history, age, physical findings, diagnostic testing, or any combination of those factors. 2) The need for medical intervention, including, but not limited to, the use of donor gametes or donor embryos in order to achieve a successful pregnancy either as an individual or with a partner. 3) In patients having regular, unprotected intercourse and without any

	known etiology for either partner suggestive of impaired reproductive ability, evaluation should be initiated at 12 months when the female partner is under 35 years of age and at 6 months when the female partner is 35 years of age or older.
iatrogenic infertility	An impairment of fertility by surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, or other medical treatment affecting reproductive organs or processes.
Gestational Surrogacy	An arrangement where a person with a uterus carries and delivers a child for another couple or person (intended parent[s]). When using a gestational surrogate, the eggs used to make the embryos do not come from the gestational surrogate. Because the eggs will be retrieved from one person and implanted in another, this technique requires the use of in vitro fertilization (IVF).
Surrogate	A surrogate is a woman who donates her egg and carries a pregnancy for another person.
Gender Affirming Treatment	A range of medical, social, and behavioral interventions (such as hormone therapy, surgery, counseling, using preferred pronouns) designed to support and affirm an individual's gender identity.
Fetal/prenatal personhood	A radical legal doctrine that seeks to endow fertilized eggs, embryos, and fetuses with full rights and legal protections. Fetal personhood directly challenges the rights of women and anyone capable of pregnancy and creates a direct conflict between pregnant people's rights and those of so-called "unborn children." For more on fetal/prenatal personhood, see Unpacking Fetal Personhood: The Radical Tool That Undermines Reproductive Justice
Restorative Reproductive Medicine	"Restorative Reproductive Medicine" (RRM) is not medical practice but ideology. RRM promotes ideologically driven restrictions that will limit patient care. It typically excludes IVF and related treatments on moral or religious grounds, not clinical evidence. Its proponents create a false narrative that standard fertility care skips proper diagnosis or healing, when in fact, it is based on precisely those principles. For more on RRM, see, Just the Facts: " 'Restorative Reproductive Medicine' and 'Ethical IVF' are Misleading Terms That Threaten Access.