



C-Gyn 10

Sterilisation procedures for women with an intellectual disability

In addressing issues of fertility control for women with an intellectual disability, the least restrictive option and approaches which are similar to those one would consider for women of the same age but without an intellectual disability, are the most appropriate. Reversible methods such as long acting reversible contraceptive implants (e.g. Implanon or Mirena) should be considered in preference to irreversible surgical options.

The administration of treatment to a woman with intellectual disabilities must be in accordance with the current law and guardianship provisions of the relevant jurisdictions.

References/Links to relevant information

1. Family Court of Australia: <http://www.familycourt.gov.au/>
2. Family Court of New Zealand: <http://www.courts.govt.nz/family/>
3. The relevant Guardianship authority in States and Territories in Australia can be located in the Office of the Public Advocate's [Interstate Offices and Tribunals](#).
4. Wen X. (1997) *The definition and prevalence of intellectual disability in Australia*. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) Catalogue no. DIS 2. Canberra: AIHW. Available at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/dis/dpida/dpida.pdf> (accessed 3 April 2007).
5. American Psychiatric Association (2000). *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, Fourth Edition, Text Revision (DSM-IV-TR) Washington DC: American Psychiatric Association.
6. For definition pertaining to intellectual disability, see section on 'Mental Retardation'. Available at: <http://www.behavenet.com/capsules/disorders/mentretard.htm> (accessed 3 April 2007).

Links to related College Statements

[Guidelines for consent and the provision of information regarding proposed treatment \(C-Gen 2\)](#)

[Emergency Contraception \(C-Gyn 11\)](#)

Disclaimer

This College Statement is intended to provide general advice to Practitioners. The statement should never be relied on as a substitute for proper assessment with respect to the particular circumstances of each case and the needs of each patient.

The statement has been prepared having regard to general circumstances. It is the responsibility of each Practitioner to have regard to the particular circumstances of each case, and the application of this statement in each case. In particular, clinical management must always be responsive to the needs of the individual patient and the particular circumstances of each case.

This College statement has been prepared having regard to the information available at the time of its preparation, and each Practitioner must have regard to relevant information, research or material which may have been published or become available subsequently.

Whilst the College endeavours to ensure that College statements are accurate and current at the time of their preparation, it takes no responsibility for matters arising from changed circumstances or information or material that may have become available after the date of the statements.