

# Definition of infertility: a committee opinion

Practice Committee of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, American Society for Reproductive Medicine, Washington, DC.

Infertility is defined. This document replaces the document titled “Definitions of infertility and recurrent pregnancy loss: a committee opinion,” last published in 2020 (Fertil Steril. 2020;113:533-535. PMID: 32115183). (© 2023; ©2023 by American Society for Reproductive Medicine.)

“Infertility” is a disease, condition, or status characterized by any of the following:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Nothing in this definition shall be used to deny or delay treatment to any individual, regardless of relationship status or sexual orientation.

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