

# Definitions of infertility and recurrent pregnancy loss: a committee opinion

Practice Committee of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine

American Society for Reproductive Medicine, Birmingham, Alabama

This document contains the definitions of infertility and recurrent pregnancy loss as defined by the Practice Committee of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine. It replaces the document titled, "Definitions of Infertility and Recurrent Pregnancy Loss," last published in 2008, *Fertil Steril* 2008;90(Suppl 3):S60. (*Fertil Steril*® 2013;99:63. ©2013 by American Society for Reproductive Medicine.)

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**I**nfertility is a disease,\* defined by the failure to achieve a successful pregnancy after 12 months or more of appropriate, timed unprotected intercourse or therapeutic donor insemination. Earlier evaluation and treatment may be justified based on medical history and physical findings and is warranted after 6 months for women over age 35 years.

Recurrent pregnancy loss is a disease\* distinct from infertility, defined by two or more failed pregnancies. When the cause is unknown, each pregnancy loss merits careful review to determine whether specific evaluation may be appropriate.

For purposes of determining when evaluation and treatment for infertility or recurrent pregnancy loss are appropriate, pregnancy is defined as a clinical pregnancy documented by ultrasonography or histopathologic examination.

**Acknowledgments:** This report was developed under the direction of the Practice Committee of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine as a service to its members and other practicing clinicians. Although this document reflects appropriate management of a problem encountered in the practice of reproductive medicine, it is not intended to be the only approved standard of practice or to dictate an exclusive course of treatment. Other plans of management may be appropriate, taking into account the needs of the individual patient, available resources, and institutional or clinical practice limitations. The Practice Committee and the Board of Directors of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine have approved this report.

The following members of the ASRM Practice Committee participated in the development of this document. All Committee members disclosed

commercial and financial relationships with manufacturers or distributors of goods or services used to treat patients. Members of the Committee who were found to have conflicts of interest based on the relationships disclosed did not participate in the discussion or development of this document.

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## REFERENCE

1. Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary. 29<sup>th</sup> Edition. Philadelphia: Saunders; 2000.

\* Disease is "any deviation from or interruption of the normal structure or function of any part, organ, or system of the body as manifested by characteristic symptoms and signs; the etiology, pathology, and prognosis may be known or unknown" (1).

Received September 13, 2012; accepted September 17, 2012; published online October 22, 2012.

No reprints will be available.

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*Fertility and Sterility*® Vol. 99, No. 1, January 2013 0015-0282/\$36.00

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.fertnstert.2012.09.023>