

Swiss laws on medically assisted procreation

1. Introduction

On May 17th 1992, the Swiss people have accepted by a large majority of voters (73.8%) and unanimity of cantons a new constitutional article (24^{novies}) about the protection of man and his environment against potential abuses in procreation techniques and genetic engineering. The Law on Medically Assisted Procreation (LPMA) and its Ordinance (OPMA) constitute the legal bodies in which the activity in this field is regulated.

2. LPMA

The LPMA was published on December 18th 1998 and is active since January 1st 2001. Links are provided here for download of the official text ([french](#), [german](#), [italian](#)).

3. OPMA

The OPMA was published on December 4th 2000 and is active since January 1st 2001. Links are provided here for download of the official text ([french](#), [german](#), [italian](#)).

The LPMA and the OPMA set limits to the practice of medically assisted procreation in humans in Switzerland.

4. Forbidden procedures

The following procedures are forbidden by the law:

- * Oocyte donation
- * Embryo donation
- * Surrogate motherhood
- * Development in vitro of more embryos than those to be replaced. This number is restricted to three
- * Cryopreservation of cleaved embryos
- * Research on human embryos
- * Pre-implantation diagnosis
- * Sex selection
- * Intervention on the genome of human gametes
- * Cloning
- * Creation of chimeras and hybrids

5. Articles 16 and 17 of the LPMA

The dispositions which affect the practice of IVF are mentioned in the articles 16 and 17 of the LPMA. These articles allow all collected oocytes to be fertilised, but they set to three the number that can be left in culture and transferred to the patient. All supernumerary pronuclear zygotes have to be cryopreserved before syngamy and the first mitosis.