Reducing the number of IVF triplets will reduce the risks of defects and miscarriage

Fertility guidance aims to reduce multiple births

By Nick Lipley

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The guidance from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) supports an ongoing national trend to transfer no more than two embryos during IVF treatment.

Many trusts already have policies in line with the advice, which is aimed at reducing the number of triplets born and therefore the risk of birth defects or miscarriage.

But enough trusts still advocate a transfer of three embryos that an estimated 15,000 women a year may be affected by the move.

The guidance, published last week, also urges practitioners to advise women over 40 that treatment is significantly less likely to succeed and that they are more likely to miscarry if it does.

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