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## EDITORIAL

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# Standard Assisted Reproductive Technology Declaration

The Royal Thai Government has introduced a new constitution in 1997. According to the contents of the new constitution, the emphasis is on human right consumer protection. There are two articles which involve health status of the Thai people. The first is in the third section, article number 52, which stated the equal right of all people the standard health care service. The second is in the fifth section, article number 52, which stated that the government must provide the standard health care and health promotion for Thai people. Both the Government organization and the non-government organization have taken up these purposes of the constitution.

The Medical Council was established following the Medical Professional Act in 1968. Its main responsibility is to monitor the performance of all medical doctors to ensure and guarantee on accepted standard of practice for benefit of the Thai people. The patient right declaration and principles in diagnosis of brain death are the examples produced by the Council.

Assisted reproductive technology (ART) is a new advanced technology for assisted conception which is different from natural process. The gametes are fertilized outside the body and is introduced into the uterine cavity for implantation and continuing pregnancy. IVF, ICSI, TESE are the new special technology used for assisted reproduction. These techniques constant updated with the production of the more sophisticated technology. In order to protect the consumer's right for the appropriate usage of ART, The Medical Council and The Royal Thai College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RTCOG) announced the declaration of the standard assisted reproductive technology provided by has been the regulation in Medical Professional Act 1982, article number 21. This declaration published in the Royal Garzette on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1997. The principle of the declaration is that every ART institutes must register with the Royal Thai College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Following the declaration, RTCOG has established standard criteria for ART institutes in terms of personnels, medical equipments, quality of care and medical ethics. Every ART institutes should have ART monitoring committee to monitor the services and records of patients.

The patients files and informed consents and recording documents of ART institutes must be submitted to RTCOG yearly.

Apart from consumer's right protection, RTCOG is willing to assist ART institutes to develop modern and appropriate technology. RTCOG also provides training course, workshop for ART personnels and develops satellite linkage for better use of ART equipments.

RTCOG is grateful for the cooperation of all ART institutes. RTCOG hopes that this declaration should encourage all ART institutes to set the standard of care for the benefit of the Thai society and the member of RTCOG.

Supacha Charnvises MD,  
Surasak Taneepanichskul MD.