

The Center for Advanced Reproductive Services

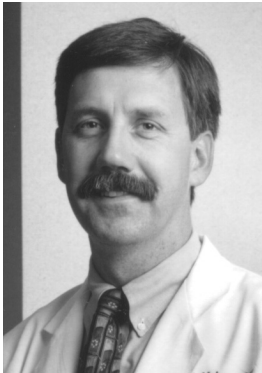


Fertility Testing & Treatment • IVF • PGD • Counseling • Egg & Sperm Donor Programs • Pregnancy Loss Evaluation

Dowling South Building • 263 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, CT 06030-6224 • Tel. (860) 679-4580

2080 Whitney Avenue • Suite 250
Hamden, CT 06518 • Tel. (203) 230-4400

John C. Nulsen, M.D.
Donald B. Maier, M.D.
Claudio A. Benadiva, M.D.
David W. Schmidt, M.D.



Assessing the Importance of National Accreditations

By John C. Nulsen, M.D.
Director and Lead Physician at The Center

Board certification is one important tool patients use to assess a physician's abilities. They know that a Board certified physician has been carefully evaluated and has met extremely high standards in his or her field of medicine. It is also an important quality indicator for physicians to look at when referring to a Reproductive Endocrinologist (RE).

After completing their Ob/Gyn residency, RE's complete a two or three year Fellowship program in Reproductive Endocrinology focusing on the diagnosis and treatment of infertility and related female disorders and spend significant amounts of time performing clinical or laboratory research. Upon completion of their fellowship, a specialist seeks Board certification. To become Board certified in Reproductive Endocrinology, the physician must first obtain Board certification in Obstetrics & Gynecology. All physicians at the Center are Board certified or active candidates for Board certification in REI.

And while Board certification recognizes quality in individual performance, similarly, accreditation by recognized regulatory bodies provides patients with the assurance that a medical facility has met equally high standards.

We have received several important accreditations, recognizing excellence in patient care and reaffirming our emphasis on quality control. We believe it is important for both physicians and patients to take a very close look at the quality control standards fertility programs and laboratories put in place to insure the best possible outcomes and experience.

Laboratory Quality

Our reproductive endocrinology and infertility laboratory has received re-accreditation by the Commission on Laboratory Accreditation of the College of American Pathologists (CAP). Based on an onsite inspection, CAP accreditation is especially difficult to attain. An assisted reproductive laboratory must meet extraordinarily high standards to become certified, and the process takes years to complete. The Center passed inspection with "0" deficiencies, a distinction accomplished by less than 4% of facilities inspected.

During the CAP accreditation process, inspectors examine the laboratory's records and quality control procedures for the preceding two years. CAP inspectors also examine the entire staff's qualifications, the laboratory's equipment, facilities, safety program and record, as well as the overall management of the laboratory.

The Center is also licensed as a high complexity lab, as accredited through Federal requirements according to the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA). CLIA sets standards designed to improve quality in all laboratory testing and includes specifications for quality control, quality assurance, patient test management, personnel and proficiency testing. When a laboratory satisfies CLIA regulatory requirements, you can have greater confidence in the quality and reliability of their results.

Ultrasound Medicine

The Center once again received re-accreditation in ultrasound medicine, awarded by the Ultrasound Practice Council of the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM). This three-year certification involves the rigorous assessment of a center's personnel, physical facility, record keeping, the accuracy of the ultrasound evaluations and the overall level of patient care. The AIUM sets nationally accepted standards for gynecologic and early obstetrical ultrasound.

Please remember to visit our website at: www.fertilitycenter-uconn.org

Ambulatory Health Care

One of the most important things we do to earn your trust is to participate voluntarily in the quality assessment program of the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC). Through an extensive on-site, peer-based survey of our facilities and services, the Center received our accreditation.

Our status as an accredited organization allows us to convey an extra measure of confidence to our patients. With AAAHC accreditation, we demonstrate our dedication to critically evaluate our own performance and consistently uphold the principles of quality.

Making An Educated Choice

According to the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, there are certain points that need to be considered when making the choice among infertility programs. Key are:

- Documentation to support success rates (reference our SART data)
- Details about the guidelines followed, lab accreditations, and statistical reporting

We're proud of our accreditations as they underscore our long-standing commitment to provide the highest possible level of care to our patients. We take this very seriously in every part of our practice—from face-to-face patient care to the high tech procedures that are carried out in our labs.

At any time, we would be pleased to share more information with you on our success rates, accreditations, or reporting statistics. And we welcome the opportunity to have you visit us, our lab, and see for yourself the rigorous standards which we uphold not only for our personnel, but also our physical facility.

For more information about our accreditations, awards, recognitions, and success rates, please go to our website at www.fertilitycenter-uconn.org.