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**Speaker: Andrea Lanes**

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Andrea Lanes is an Epidemiologist with BORN Ontario and is currently completing her PhD in Epidemiology at the University of Ottawa. Her research has focused on maternal and child health, but she has spent the past four years concentrating on research associated with fertility treatment.

**Presentation Title: IVF Funding in Ontario – How Do We Define Success?**

The process of using in vitro fertilization (IVF) to assist with conception has progressed dramatically since the birth of the first IVF baby in 1978. In Ontario, there are approximately 10,000 fresh IVF cycles performed each year. Previously, IVF cycles in Ontario were self-funded by the patient. As of December 2015, a portion of IVF treatment cycles were funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. These patients received one fresh IVF treatment cycle and all subsequent frozen embryo cycles associated with this retrieval.

To be eligible for these funded cycles, patients must be less than 43 years of age and a permanent resident of Ontario with a valid OHIP. The influence that this change to the funding system has on the demographics of the patients using IVF treatment, as well as the pregnancy and birth outcomes has yet to be determined. However it is expected to have a significant impact. This presentation will explore the current environment for IVF treatment in Ontario.

**Objectives**

1. Describe the rationale for funding IVF treatment cycles in Ontario.
2. Describe the eligibility for these funded IVF treatment cycles.
3. Recognize the strengths and limitations of funding these cycles and impact that it may have on patients.

