### Key Features:

1. When a patient consults you with concerns about difficulties becoming pregnant:
   a) Take an appropriate history (e.g., ask how long they have been trying, assess menstrual history, determine coital frequency and timing) before providing reassurance or investigating further.
   b) Ensure follow-up at an appropriate time (e.g., after one to two years of trying; in general, do not investigate infertility too early). See KF 3

**What you should study:**

- Evaluation and Treatment of Infertility AAFP 2015

2. In patients with fertility concerns, provide advice that accurately describes the likelihood of fertility.

**What you should study:** Prognosis will depend on age and cause, consider referral for prognostication. Study types of infertility, see also Key Feature 6

- Anatomical Causes of Female Infertility 2013

3. With older couples who have fertility concerns, refer earlier for investigation and treatment, as their likelihood of infertility is higher.

**What you should study:**

- <35 refer after 12 mo
- >35 refer after 6 mo

- Fertility for Family Physicians Presentation
- Reproductive Ageing figure from “Menopause”, Nature 2015
- Advanced Reproductive Age SOGC 2011
- Reproductive Ageing RCOG 2011
4. When choosing to investigate primary or secondary infertility, ensure that both partners are assessed.

**What you should study:** know how to take a fertility history for men

- Evaluation and Treatment of Infertility AAFP 2015
- Sexual Dysfunction and Male Infertility NATURE 2018

5. In couples who are likely infertile, discuss adoption when the time is right. (Remember that adoption often takes a long time.)

Consider prognosis (see Key Feature 2) and discuss adoption early

6. In evaluating female patients with fertility concerns and menstrual abnormalities, look for specific signs and symptoms of certain conditions (e.g., polycystic ovarian syndrome, hyperprolactinemia, thyroid disease) to direct further investigations (e.g., prolactin, thyroid-stimulating hormone, and luteal phase progesterone testing).

**What you should study:**

- Endometriosis Pathogenesis and Treatment NATURE 2014
- PCOS AAFP 2016
- Hyperprolactinemic Infertility 2012
- Thyroid dysfunction and subfertility 2015
- Treatment of thyroid disorders for pregnancy 2012