Steps required for clinics to undertake clinical training and/or quality assurance activities using unsuitable for transfer[1] embryos without a licence

1. Clinics must maintain clear policies and procedures for laboratory processes

This should include established policies and procedures for grading embryos and determining the suitability of embryos for transfer.

2. Obtain consent to treat from responsible persons

This should include clear information that not all embryos created during ART treatment will be suitable for transfer.

3. Obtain consent to use those embryos deemed unsuitable for transfer[1] for training and/or quality assurance (QA) activities

Consent to use unsuitable for transfer embryos in training and/or QA activities **must be obtained before the embryos are created** (eg. at the same time as consent for treatment). If consent for the training and/or QA is obtained after the embryos have been created, they become excess ART embryos under the RIHE Act and a licence is required for any subsequent training and/or QA activities, unless the activity is an exempt use under subsection 10(2) of the RIHE Act.

To ensure that consent is fully informed, the consent process must include the provision of specific information about the proposed training and/or QA activities.

4. Commence ART treatment, and create embryos

5. Ascertain which embryos are unsuitable for transfer, based on the clinic's established policies and procedures

6. Conduct training and/or QA on unsuitable for transfer[1] embryos for which consent has been obtained; record outcomes

7. Allow embryos to succumb[2]

[1] Embryos that are considered unsuitable for transfer based on the clinic's established policies and procedures
[2] Any other use of the embryos is an offence