Day 3 - Embryo grading

The fertilised eggs should continue to develop on and by now have formed either six or eight cell embryos. We will check this on the morning of day 3 in the same way we may have done on day two. At this point we’ll grade all your embryos according to the same nationally accepted scheme. Again, remember each embryo is an individual and we don’t expect all of them to be top grade. It’s normal to have a mixture of grades.

We’ll call you between the hours of 9:00 and 10:00 again on day three. Depending on how things are going, we’ll either arrange for an embryo transfer for you the same afternoon or recommend we wait until day five.

We base this decision based on the number of good quality embryos we have available to you. The decision is based on careful calculations, our experience and our aim to ensure we give you the best possible chance of a positive outcome.

If you have four or more good quality embryos on day three we’ll recommend we continue with culture for another two days and transfer one or two blastocysts on day five. This allows us to track an embryo’s true potential as long as we can.

If we don’t think enough embryos are likely to give blastocysts, we’ll arrange the transfer on day three. At this point it will be clear which embryos are the most likely to be successful. We’re not likely to learn anything more by leaving them in the culture. It’s better to transfer these embryos now - there is nowhere better for them to be than inside you!