Please note that this flowchart is for illustrative purposes only and should be read and used in conjunction with the 1990 Act and Clinic Guide

Posthumous use scenarios for embryos created with patient sperm and donor eggs after 1 July 2022 (version 1, 6 July 2022)

Embryos first stored on 25 July 2022 (MT and WD)
Embryos created with patient's sperm and donor eggs. Patient has given consent to storage for 10 years on MT.
Egg donor has given consent to storage on WD for 25 years (ends 24 July 2047) with no restrictions.

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Patient's first 10-year consent period ends on 24 July 2032
Renewal period starts 25 July 2031 and ends 24 January 2033
Consent to storage renewed by patient in May 2032 for 10 years
Second 10-year consent period ends 24 July 2042
Total storage 20 years from first placed in storage

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Patient dies on 29 March 2040 and clinic is provided with death certificate.

→ Patient HAS NOT given consent to storage or use in event of death.
and/or HAS NOT named a partner who they wish to use the embryos in treatment in event of their death.
Embryos must be removed from storage and disposed of immediately the clinic has confirmed the patient's death (obtained death certificate).

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Patient HAS given consent to storage and use of embryos in event of their death for maximum 10 year posthumous use and HAS named a partner who they wish to use the embryos in treatment
Embryos cannot remain in storage for 10 years from date of patient's death (which would be 28 March 2050) as this will exceed consent to storage given by egg donor .
In accordance with the consent to storage given by the egg donor the embryos can remain in storage until 24 July 2047 (25 years from date of first storage)

→ Named partner does NOT use any or all embryos by 24 July 2047.

Embryos must be removed from storage and disposed of six months after 24 July 2047, which is by 24 January 2048. Embryos cannot be used during this 6 month period.

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Named partner uses embryos in treatment in July 2042 and March 2044
Two embryos remain in storage.

↓

Clinic contacts egg donor in February 2045, donor gives consent to storage of embryos for 30 years from date of first storage (WD).
Embryo storage consent period given by egg donor now ends on 24 July 2052 (30 years from date first placed in storage).
However, the embryo can only remain in storage and be used until 28 March 2050 (10 years from date of death of patient).

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Named partner does NOT use all remaining embryos by 28 March 2050
Embryos must be removed from storage and disposed of six months after 28 March 2050 which is by 28 September 2050. Embryos cannot be used after 28 March 2050.

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Named partner uses remaining embryos in treatment in October 2048.
No embryos remain in storage.