

Ref: CCG July07

Corporate Services
NHS Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group
The Department
Lewis's Building
Renshaw Street
Liverpool
L1 2SA

Email: foi@liverpoolccg.nhs.uk

4th August 2016,

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request that we received on 15 July 2016, with regards to our Subfertility Policy.

Request/**Response**

1. According to your current IVF treatment policy:

a. How many cycles of IVF do you offer to eligible patients?

Please find below the link to our Subfertility Policy

<http://www.liverpoolccg.nhs.uk/media/1025/final-infertility-policy-26022015-1.pdf>

b. Do you fund a full cycle of IVF, as defined by NICE, which includes replacement of all frozen embryos? If not how many frozen embryo transfers do you fund?

Please refer to our Subfertility Policy

c. What is your upper and lower age limit that female patients must meet in order to qualify for treatment?

Please refer to our Subfertility Policy

d. Do you fund one full cycle of IVF for women aged 40-42 in line with the NICE guidance?

Please refer to our Subfertility Policy

- e. Do you have an age criteria that male patients must meet in order to qualify for treatment? If so, please state what the criteria is.

Please refer to our Subfertility Policy

- f. What must the smoking status of patients be?

Please refer to our Subfertility Policy

- g. What weight requirement exists (i.e. BMI)?

Please refer to our Subfertility Policy

- h. How long do couples need to be trying to conceive before becoming eligible for treatment?

Please refer to our Subfertility Policy

- i. Is there a minimum period that the couple need to have been in a relationship before becoming eligible for treatment?

Please refer to our Subfertility Policy

- j. What eligibility criteria do you apply in relation to existing children that either one or both partners may have?

Please refer to our Subfertility Policy

- k. What policy is in place (if any) for the use of Single Embryo Transfer?

Please refer to our Subfertility Policy

- l. Do you fund fertility treatment for same sex couples, and if so what eligibility criteria do they have to fulfill?

Please refer to our Subfertility Policy

- m. Do you fund fertility preservation for cancer patients and if so what budget is the funding taken from?

The Fertility Policy which is included in the LWH contract states:

***Men and women with cancer, or other illnesses which may impact on fertility, may access tertiary care services to discuss fertility preservation (egg, embryo or sperm storage). Other illnesses are not defined in this policy but will be considered on an individual basis via an Individual Funding Request.
Storage will be in-line with section 19.”***

Section 19 of this policy states:

“19.1 Embryo, egg and sperm storage will be funded for patients who are undergoing NHS subfertility treatment in line with The Human Fertilization

and Embryology Authority guidance. The storage standard period for sperm, egg and embryo storage is normally ten years.”

I understand that initial freeze and storage for one year is included in the cancer treatment tariff payable to the trust (usually Clatterbridge) and that LWH charge the referring trust £384.

Storage for subsequent years is paid directly to LWH via the contract at a local tariff of £100.

2. What is the average cost of a cycle of an IVF cycle funded by the CCG and what does that include?

NHS Liverpool CCG pay the National Tariff for IVF. Please see the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-national-tariff-payment-system-201617>

3. What providers does the CCG contract with to provide IVF services?

Our main provider is the Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust, but Liverpool CCG would fund women to attend any NHS provider unit under NHS National Contract arrangements.

4. When was the current assisted conception policy developed? And who was consulted?

It was subject to a formal 90 day consultation in late 2014.

This piece of work was undertaken by Cheshire and Merseyside Commissioning Support Unit who are now part of the Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit. I would recommend you direct your specific question to them on:

england.contactus@nhs.net

5. When will the CCG review its assisted conception policy?

CCG is currently commissioning a review of its commissioning policy which includes the fertility policy.

6. Is the assisted conception policy available on the CCG's website? If so please provide a link to the policy.

Please see answer to Question 1. This Policy is available on our internet.

7. Please could you provide me with a copy of your assisted conception policy?

Please see answer to Question 1. This Policy is available on our internet.

8. Which MPs cover the boundaries of the CCG?

This information is available on the internet. Please see the link below:

<http://liverpool.gov.uk/council/councillors-and-committees/mps-and-meps/>

9. Has the CCG conducted any financial modelling on the cost implications of funding three full cycles of IVF?

Yes as part of the review in 2014.

10. If the CCG does not follow the NICE guideline, have they published the reasons why they do not follow the guideline? If so, what are the reasons for not complying with the NICE guideline?

Our policy was reviewed in line with NICE guidelines. Please refer to our policy.

11. In the last 12 months, or at the time of the last consultation on the IVF policy, has the CCG considered collaborating with other CCGs on the fertility policy?

Our current policy was developed across Cheshire and Merseyside.

12. In the last 12 months, how many patients have applied for fertility funding (both successfully and unsuccessfully) through an Individual Funding Request?

For the last financial year we received 63 requests for fertility treatment. 7 were approved and 56 declined.

13. In the last 12 months, how many women aged between 40-42 has the CCG funded IVF treatment for? What does the CCG estimate this to have cost?

We don't routinely split data by age in order to focus on women aged 40- 42 therefore we cannot provide you with this information.

We can however provide you with the numbers of IVF cycles for the past twelve months and the associated costs (see below).

	CY		CYD		CYEP		CYVD		Total	
	IVF Cycles		Donor Cycles		Egg Preservation		Viral Discordance			
	Activity	Cost	Activity	Cost	Activity	Cost	Activity	Cost	Activity	Cost
Jun-15	22	£90,833	-	£-	-	£-	-	£-	22	£90,833
Jul-15	24	£99,091	1	£4,017	2	£6,134	-	£-	27	£109,241
Aug-15	19	£78,447	-	£-	-	£-	1	£4,342	20	£82,789
Sep-15	26	£107,349	-	£-	-	£-	-	£-	26	£107,349
Oct-15	21	£86,705	-	£-	-	£-	-	£-	21	£86,705
Nov-15	10	£41,288	1	£4,017	-	£-	-	£-	11	£45,305
Dec-15	20	£82,576	-	£-	1	£3,067	-	£-	21	£85,643
Jan-16	28	£115,606	-	£-	-	£-	-	£-	28	£115,606
Feb-16	21	£86,705	-	£-	1	£3,067	-	£-	22	£89,771
Mar-16	25	£103,220	-	£-	-	£-	-	£-	25	£103,220
Apr-16	22	£91,833	-	£-	-	£-	-	£-	22	£91,833
May-16	22	£91,833	-	£-	-	£-	-	£-	22	£91,833
Total	260	£1,075,484	2	£8,034	4	£12,267	1	£4,342	267	£1,100,127

14. What advice has the CCG sought concerning the most cost and clinically efficient methods of setting up their tertiary infertility services?
 - a. Where was this advice sought from?
 - b. When was this advice sought?

Our main provider of fertility services is a tertiary provider.

15. I would also like to request permission to re-publish the data provided in a publically accessible document/web-format.

NHS Liverpool CCG publish all our FOI Response on our internet, therefore this response is already publically available.

We wish to take this opportunity to inform you that a formal complaints and internal review procedure is available to applicants who are unhappy with responses provided to FOI requests. You can formally request an internal review within a reasonable period of time (2 calendar months) from the date this response was issued.

Where you are not satisfied with the decision of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a further review of that decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints procedure in the first instance.

The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk

Should you require any further information, clarification regarding this response or do not feel that your request has been answered as you would expect, please contact us to discuss.

Yours sincerely,

**Customer Relations Lead
NHS Liverpool CCG**