

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group
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Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which was received into this office on 21st March 2017 regarding fertility.

You asked for the following information:

1. Could you set out your current IVF policy?

I have included a link below to the CCG's Fertility Policy which is available on our public facing website:

<https://www.wirralccg.nhs.uk/About%20Us/PLCP.htm>

2. How much money have you spent on IVF in the years 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16. For each year, how many people received IVF treatment and, of that number how many resulted in pregnancy, no pregnancy, cancelled or awaiting results

Please see financial information attached.

The information in relation to the number that resulted in pregnancy, no pregnancy cancelled or awaiting results is not held by the CCG. I would therefore advise for you to liaise with the following trusts direct:

Wirral University Teaching Hospital - wih-tr.AccessToInformationOffice@nhs.net
The Women's Hospital, Liverpool- FOI@lwh.nhs.uk

3. What is your estimated funding gap for the years 2015/16 2016/17 2017/18 and 2019/20?

There is no estimated funding gap for IVF cycles as it is paid based on case per case.

4. Is the funding gap affecting your ability to fund fertility treatments? And more broadly, do you think IVF provision by the NHS is unsustainable in light of funding pressures?

Not applicable, please see response to question 3.

5. Have you held a public consultation on IVF provision in your local area? If you have held a consultation can you provide the details of the questions you asked and the decision you made in regard to services?

We have recently consulted on a variety of commissioning decisions including IVF provision. The questions specifically on IVF were:

Section 4 – Fertility treatments (treatments to help females to get pregnant) and Sterilisation (male & female)

1. In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) with or without Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI) please see proposal document for details of current fertility policy. (please select multiple options, if applicable)

- The CCG should introduce a reduction in the number of cycles from 3 to 2 (women aged 23-39)
- The CCG should introduce a reduction in the number of cycles from 3 to 1 (women aged 23-39)
- The CCG should continue with the current fertility policy
- I am unsure

The CCG is also proposing the following options in relation to the future provision of IVF (please select multiple options, if applicable)

- The CCG should introduce additional thresholds within the policy i.e. Body Mass Index (BMI) and smoking thresholds for both female and male partners
- The CCG should introduce the additional threshold of only funding IVF after 3 years of unexplained infertility (this would not be applicable if there is a diagnosed cause of infertility)
- I am unsure

6. If you answered no to question 5, do you have any plans to hold a public consultation on IVF provision? If so, can you detail the proposed scope of that consultation and the options you will offer the local community in regards to service?

Not applicable, see response to question 5.

7. If you answered no to question 6 will you rule out running a consultation in 2017/18, 2018/19 and/or 2019/20

Not applicable.

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