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Our Ref: ID 1073

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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 2nd April 2018.

You Asked for:

- 1) The number of female cancer-related fertility preservation cycles funded in your CCG over the last 2 years from 1st January 2015 to 31st December 2017.
- 2) Could you please state your criteria which you use to make a decision on funding.
- 3) Does your CCG restrict funding for fertility preservation based on:
 - a. Age range
 - b. BMI
 - c. Previous children
- 4) Do you still require fertility centres to fill in an exceptional funding application form?
- 5) How long does it take for your CCG to process funding for fertility preservation?
- 6) What is the duration of storage that is funded by your CCG?

Our Response:

- 1) NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) funded 2 female cancer-related fertility preservation cycles within the period of 1st January 2015 to 31st December 2017, via the Individual Funding Requests (IFR) process.

Please note the majority of patients will meet policy criteria, therefore an IFR would not be required.

A more accurate figure would be available from the provider organisation, Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust for Wirral patients, the information to make FOI requests can be found via the link below;

<https://www.liverpoolwomens.nhs.uk/about-us/foi/>

- 2) NHS Wirral CCG has a duty to provide a fair and equitable service to the resident population and this is achieved via the application of the commissioning policy criteria. For applications for funding of treatment for which there is no commissioning criteria the IFR team will review the application for clinical exceptionalality, defined as *“The patient has a clinical picture that is significantly different to the general population of patients with that condition and as a result of that difference; the patient is likely to derive greater benefit from the intervention than might normally be expected for patients with that condition”*.

Please see attached the Wirral Subfertility Policy, which is available on our website, for your ease of reference:

<https://www.wirralccg.nhs.uk/media/1254/subfertility-policy-wirral-2017-18.pdf>

3)

- a. Please see the local fertility policy criteria, as above.
- b. Please see the local fertility policy criteria, as above.
- c. Please see the local fertility policy criteria, as above.

4) If the NHS provider is satisfied that the patient fulfils the commissioning policy criteria then there is no requirement for an IFR application form to be submitted.

5) The IFR Team have an external KPI of a maximum of 56 working days in which to process funding for all IFRs.

6) Please see the local fertility policy criteria, as per question 2.

We hope this information is useful, however if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Corporate Affairs Team (contact details at the top of this letter)

Yours sincerely

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