

Your Request:

1) Why hasn't your infertility policy been updated despite the review being due in 2018? Surely an up to date policy is in the best interests of the CCG and the public.

2) On what grounds do you exclude couples from IVF when one partner has already got a child from a previous relationship? Is it not discriminatory to exclude the couple if the partner without the child has fertility problems?

Our Response:

1 - 2) Please note from 01 July 2022, the former Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were disestablished, and their statutory functions, responsibilities and commissioning policies inherited by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB.

Further information regarding the current application of the commissioning policies in operation across the Cheshire & Merseyside area can be found on our website via the following link:

<https://www.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/about/how-we-work/commissioning-policies/>

Please find listed below links to the assisted fertility policies for each of the former CCGs that now make up NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB, which detail the type of NHS assisted fertility treatment options available and the inclusion/exclusion criteria for eligibility:

Cheshire (West)

<https://www.cheshireccg.nhs.uk/media/1839/subfertility-policy-wc-ccg-2017-18-update-may2018-final.pdf>

Cheshire (Eastern/South/Vale Royal)

<https://www.cheshireccg.nhs.uk/media/1840/subfertility-policy-ec-sc-vr-ccg-2017-18-final-revision-may-2018.pdf>

Halton & Warrington

<https://www.haltonwarringtonccg.nhs.uk/about-us/policies-and-procedures/warrington-policies/policies-1/288-nhs-warrington-ccg-subfertility-policy/file>

Knowsley

https://www.knowsleyccg.nhs.uk/assets/uploaded/documents/26739_FINAL%20Infertility%20Policy%2026022015.pdf

Liverpool

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

South Sefton

<https://www.southseftonccg.nhs.uk/media/1435/final-infertility-policy-27082015-ssccg.pdf>

Southport & Formby

<https://www.southportandformbyccg.nhs.uk/media/1214/final-infertility-policy-27082015-sfccg.pdf>

St Helens

<https://www.sthelensccg.nhs.uk/media/1545/sub-fertility-policy-nhs-st-helens-ccg-review-date-november-2015.pdf>

Wirral

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

Your Request:

3) How many appeals have been lodged with Cheshire CCG from couples where one partner has a child from previous relationship and the partner with fertility issues doesn't and their IVF request was refused?

4) Of the appeals mentioned in Q3 how many were successful?

Our Response:

3 - 4) Patients who do not meet the commissioning criteria set out in the above listed NHS assisted fertility policies can submit an Individual Funding Request (IFR) for consideration. The former NHS Cheshire CCG received a total of seven IFRs for fertility treatment from couples where one partner already has a child. None of these seven IFRs received by NHS Cheshire CCG were approved for funding.