

Dear Requestor

RE: Freedom of Information Request

With reference to your request for information I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information that you have requested. A response to each part of your request is below.

Please note, as of 1st April 2020 the following Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), NHS Mansfield & Ashfield CCG, NHS Newark & Sherwood CCG, NHS Nottingham City CCG, NHS Nottingham North & East CCG, NHS Nottingham West CCG and NHS Rushcliffe CCG, merged to become NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG. More information around the new NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG can be found on our website - <https://nottsccg.nhs.uk/about-us/our-ccg/>

In the request you asked:

**Re: COVID-19 and patient eligibility for assisted conception services**

Any information regarding NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG's approach to patient eligibility for assisted conception services, in cases where:

- Under normal circumstances, there exists an upper age limit for access to assisted conception services
- AND
- Delays related to the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in (or may result in) patients exceeding that limit.

**Assisted Conception – Prior to IVF**

NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG have recently given approval for local Acute pre-IVF Fertility services to extend their criteria as noted below:-

The existing upper age-limit for women accessing Fertility treatment is 39 years. The CCG has agreed to temporarily raise this to 40 years and 6 months, for a period of 6 months. This aligns to the existing CCG agreement to raise the upper age limit for women accessing IVF treatment.

This temporary change in the criteria is effective only to the cohort of patients where treatment was delayed due to service suspension during the Covid pandemic, and who commence treatment by Friday, 8th January 2021.

Sherwood Forest Hospital is required to seek Prior Approval for this small cohort of patients at the upper age-limit from the CCG Individual Funding Request Team, using existing Prior Approval procedures; to enable the Nottingham & Nottinghamshire CCG to audit the number of patients accessing treatment via this mechanism.

**Assisted Conception IVF/ICSI**

Patients who have been referred into for IVF/ICSI treatment will still be entitled to commence treatment past their 43rd birthday if their treatment was commenced within 6 months from the current cessation of services being lifted.

If you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group have an internal review procedure through which you can raise any concerns you might have. Further details of this procedure can be obtained by contacting Lucy Branson, Associate Director of Governance via

[lucy.branson@nhs.net](mailto:lucy.branson@nhs.net) or by writing to NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG, 1 Standard Court, Park Row, Nottingham, NG1 6GN.

If you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether the organisation has complied with its obligations under the Act, and can require the organisation to remedy any problems. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group formerly known as NHS Mansfield and Ashfield Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Newark and Sherwood Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Rushcliffe Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Nottingham West Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Nottingham City Clinical Commissioning Group and Nottingham North and East Clinical Commissioning Group. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/>

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to: FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF  
Telephone 0303 123 1113 or report a concern: <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer on behalf of *NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group formerly known as NHS Rushcliffe Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Nottingham West Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Nottingham City Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Nottingham North and East Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Mansfield and Ashfield Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS Newark and Sherwood Clinical Commissioning Group.*

[notts.foi@nhs.net](mailto:notts.foi@nhs.net)

*All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the license conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent of the Greater Nottingham Clinical Commissioning Partnership. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing (email will suffice) to the FOI Lead via [notts.foi@nhs.net](mailto:notts.foi@nhs.net). All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.*

