

30/12/2024

NN-ICB/24-1021

Dear Requestor

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your request for information, received on 9 December 2024, regarding fertility preservation policies for patients with endometriosis. We have processed your request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Under the FOIA, public authorities like ours are required to respond to requests for information within 20 working days. In response to your request, I can confirm that we do hold the information requested.

Please find below our response to your request:

1. Policy on Fertility Preservation:

- *Does your ICB have a specific policy regarding fertility preservation (e.g., egg or embryo freezing) for patients with endometriosis prior to surgical intervention for ovarian endometriomas/ endometriotic cysts?*

No, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB does not have a specific policy regarding fertility preservation for patients with endometriosis prior to surgical intervention for ovarian endometriomas / endometriotic cysts.

2. Clinical Criteria for Funding:

- *Are there set clinical criteria that must be met for patients with endometriosis to receive NHS funding for fertility preservation? For example, do these criteria include:*

- *Age restrictions?*

The ICB's general criteria for fertility preservation for patients about to commence treatment (which would be funded by the NHS) that may cause permanent infertility as a result of their treatment includes an age criteria – "Females of reproductive age up to 42 years old. There is no minimum age limit."

- *Requirement for patients to be undergoing surgery for bilateral endometriomas or other specific endometriosis-related surgeries?*

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB has no such criteria.

- *A previous history of surgery for endometriosis?*

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB has no such criteria.

- *A specific Anti-Müllerian Hormone (AMH) cut-off value?*

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB has no such criteria.

3. Scope of Funding:

- *If funding is available, is it typically provided for one cycle of egg/embryo freezing, or are additional cycles potentially funded if the patient responds poorly to the initial cycle?*

A single cycle of treatment only will be funded.

4. Second or Further Cycles:

- *In the case of an unexpectedly poor response to the initial funded cycle, is there any possibility of additional funding being granted for a second or further cycle of egg/embryo freezing?*

A single cycle of treatment only will be funded. A clinician may submit an Individual Funding Request via the ICB's IFR process if it is believed there are exceptional clinical services.

5. Statistics on Funding Applications:

- *How many patients with endometriosis have been granted NHS funding for fertility preservation prior to surgery in the last two years?*
- *How many funding applications for fertility preservation for patients with endometriosis have been made and subsequently declined during this same period?*

There have been no IFR applications received by NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB for fertility preservation for patient with endometriosis, during the time period stated.

If you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) has 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, Director of Corporate Affairs via lucy.branson@nhs.net or by writing to FOI Team at NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB, Sir John Robinson House, Sir John Robinson Way, Arnold, Daybrook, Nottingham NG5 6DA.

If you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), 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 ICB. 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 via <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information (FOI) Officer on behalf of *NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board*

nnicb-nn.foi@nhs.net

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