

**Fertility Treatment  
 Commissioning Policy  
 Criteria Based Access**

**THIS POLICY RELATES TO ALL PATIENTS REGISTERED WITH A GP IN  
 BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET**

**NHS Bath and North East Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)**

**Policy Statement: Fertility treatment.**

**This policy sets out the criteria that individuals and couples must meet in order to be eligible for NHS-funded fertility treatment.**

**Please note that patients who are not eligible for treatment under this policy may be considered on an individual basis where their GP or consultant believes exceptional circumstances exist, which warrant deviation from this policy.**

**Such exceptional cases will be reviewed at the CCG Exceptional Funding Panel upon receipt of a completed application form from the patient's GP, consultant or treating clinician. Applications cannot be considered from patients personally.**

	<b>Age of woman at start of treatment cycle</b>	<b>Any cycle of in-vitro fertilization (IVF) or intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) should be started after the woman's 23rd birthday and before the woman's 38th birthday.</b>
	<b>Age of woman at time of referral</b>	<b>The minimum age of the woman at the time of referral is exactly 23 years minus the maximum likely waiting time. This is to ensure that women who have a reduced chance of conceiving receive a service as soon as possible. This minimum age limit will not normally be lowered in the case of partners who have medical evidence suggesting that IVF / ICSI will be their only chance of conception because of</b>

		<p>physical causes which have been discovered earlier.</p> <p>The maximum age at the time of referral is exactly 38 years minus the maximum likely waiting time.</p>
	Age of male partner	The male partner in heterosexual couples must be aged 55 years or under.
	Number of cycles	One full cycle of IVF /ICSI to include transfer of one frozen embryo where available will be available on the NHS.
	Previous Fertility treatment	<p>Individuals who have received IVF/ICSI treatment (either self-funded or NHS-funded) will not be eligible for any further NHS-funded treatment.</p> <p>Retrospective funding will not be available for any individual who would have been eligible for NHS funding but agreed to self-fund all or any of their treatment. This applies whether payment has been made in part, in full, or not at all.</p>
	Same sex couples (female) and women not in a partnership	<p>Fertility treatment will be funded for same-sex (female) couples or women not in a partnership if those seeking treatment are demonstrably sub-fertile. Such cases will be considered by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) individually. An assessment of subfertility will be made on a case-by-case basis and the CCG will aim to apply the same level of stringency in determining subfertility in same sex couples and single women as for all individuals or couples seeking treatment.</p> <p>In the case of same-sex couples in which only one partner is sub-fertile, clinicians should discuss the possibility of the other partner receiving treatment, before proceeding with any treatment involving the sub-fertile partner.</p> <p>Same-sex couples will be eligible for assessment and treatment if they have undergone a minimum of 10 self-funded, documented cycles of non-stimulated artificial insemination over a period of 2 years, without pregnancy.</p> <p>NHS funding is not available for access to donor insemination facilities for fertile women who are in a same-sex relationship, or single.</p> <p>Once subfertility has been proven in same-sex couples or</p>

		individual women, all other access criteria apply equally.
	<b>Childlessness</b>	At least one partner must have no living children. This includes genetic and legally adopted children and offspring who are adults, but does not include foster children or step children. If the couple adopt a child or conceive naturally during assessment or treatment, they are no longer eligible for fertility assessment or treatment.
	<b>Sterilisation</b>	Fertility treatment will not be available if the subfertility is the result of a sterilisation procedure in either partner.
	<b>Body Mass Index (BMI)</b>	To optimise the chances of conception, the female partner must have a BMI in the healthy range for women, which is between 19 and 30.  A male partner must have a healthy BMI of 30 or less.
	<b>Duration of infertility</b>	To be eligible for treatment, heterosexual couples must have been trying to conceive for at least two years where the female partner has not yet reached her 36 <sup>th</sup> birthday, and one year where the female partner is between her 36 <sup>th</sup> and 37 <sup>th</sup> birthday.
	<b>Smoking</b>	Couples and individuals who smoke will not be eligible for NHS-funded fertility treatment.
	<b>Intrauterine insemination (IUI) / Donor insemination (DI)</b>	Individuals who meet the criteria in this policy may choose to have; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• up to three cycles of NHS funded IUI, or</li> <li>• up to three cycles of NHS funded DI or</li> <li>• one cycle of NHS-funded IVF treatment</li> </ul>
	<b>IVF top-up Provision</b>	Top-up provision is not funded on the NHS. Individuals must make arrangements with their treatment provider if they wish to pay for extra services, for example time-lapse monitoring.
	<b>Egg donation</b>	Egg donation will be funded where required for couples and women who meet the criteria for IVF treatment.
	<b>Embryo Storage</b>	Freezing of appropriate surplus embryos for storage for one year or 18 weeks prior to the female partner's 38th birthday if it is sooner. Additional storage and replacement to be funded by the patient if required.  Patients must be counselled by the clinician and

		<b>infertility counsellor to this effect. Any costs relating to the continued storage of the embryos beyond the first calendar year of the retrieval date is the responsibility of the couple.</b>
	<b>HFEA Code of Practice</b>	<b>Couples and individuals who not conform to the HFEA's Code of Practice will be excluded from access to NHS-funded assisted fertility or other treatment.</b>  <b>You can read the full Code of Practice here:</b> <b><a href="https://www.hfea.gov.uk/code-of-practice/">https://www.hfea.gov.uk/code-of-practice/</a>.</b>

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**Pre Implantation Genetic  
Diagnosis (PGD)**

**Prior Approval Required**

	<p><b>Funding for one cycle of PGD will be considered for couples who meet the following criteria:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>At least one partner has had a positive predictive test for a life- limiting condition</b></li> <li>• <b>The female partner is between her 23rd and 38th birthday</b></li> <li>• <b>The male partner must be aged 55 years or younger</b></li> <li>• <b>The female partner has a BMI between 19 and 30.</b></li> <li>• <b>The male partner must have a healthy BMI of 30 or less.</b></li> <li>• <b>At least one partner must have no living children. This includes genetic and legally adopted children and offspring who are adults, but does not include foster children or step children. If the couple adopt a child or conceive naturally during assessment or treatment, they are no longer eligible for fertility assessment or treatment.</b></li> <li>• <b>Both partners are non-smokers.</b></li> <li>• <b>Couples and individuals who do not conform to the HFEA’s Code of Practice will be excluded from access to NHS-funded assisted fertility or other treatment.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>You can read the full Code of Practice here: <a href="https://www.hfea.gov.uk/code-of-practice/">https://www.hfea.gov.uk/code-of-practice/</a>.</b></p>
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<b>Approved by (committee)</b>	<b>Joint Commissioning Committee</b>
<b>Date Approved:</b>	
<b>Review Date:</b>	<b>March 2021 (or sooner if required)</b>