

# IVF Policy

## Adults Care, Adults Health and Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017

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Author:	Gill May, Executive Nurse
Wards:	All Wards
Locality Affected:	All Locality Area
Parishes Affected:	All Parish Area

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### 1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 NHS Swindon CCG is proposing changes to its current IVF policy and will be carrying out a period of public engagement from Monday 16 January through to Friday 17 February 2017.
- 1.2 CCGs are allocated an annual NHS budget which is used to commission (buy) a wide range of health services and treatments for its local population, in accordance with local health care needs.
- 1.3 Swindon CCG is responsible for funding IVF treatment for local people but this must be balanced against funding requirements for many other necessary local health services and treatment (such as emergency care services, treatment for long-term conditions, community nurses, surgical operations etc.)

### 2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the report.

### 3. Detail

- 3.1 When people living in Swindon and Shrivenham have problems with infertility, Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is responsible for funding infertility treatment services (such as IVF) to help women become pregnant. We currently fund IVF treatment for approximately 127 people in Swindon each year. In the past year, the cost to the NHS for Swindon and Shrivenham residents has been approximately £383,000.

Why this is happening now

- 3.2 For a number of years Swindon CCG has aligned its fertility policy with the guidance produced by the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE). The most recent NICE update of the Clinical Guideline (CG) 'Fertility: assessment and treatment for people with fertility problems', was released in February 2013 and the current CCG policy 'Assisted conception' (October 2012) needs to be reviewed in the light of these recommendations.

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- 3.3 Currently, we offer more cycles compared to Wiltshire and BaNES. The policy review needs to consider the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) work programme with a view in potentially agreeing the same criteria and provision of services for assisted reproduction services for infertile couples across Swindon, Wiltshire and BaNES CCGs (both CCGs reviewed and amended their policies in 2016). However, it is acknowledged that some differences presently remain in the current policies and Wiltshire and Banes and it is our intention to align our policy at this time.

#### The current IVF policy

- 3.4 The current IVF Access Criteria is available at <http://www.fundingrequests.cscsu.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/SW-07-Fertility-Extract-Swindon-CCG-March-2013.pdf>
- 3.5 The latest NICE guideline, a non-binding recommendation, is available at [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG156](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG156)
- 3.6 The change the CCG is proposing to the current IVF policy is in relation to the availability of fresh and frozen cycles:

	2013 NICE guidance	Current Swindon CCG IVF Policy	Proposed Swindon CCG IVF Policy
Availability of fresh cycles and frozen cycles	Full fresh cycle and all subsequent frozen cycles	Three fresh cycles (and frozen cycles where available from the fresh cycle), maximum six embryo transfers	One fresh cycle with a maximum two frozen embryo transfers

- 3.7 The proposed change would bring Swindon CCG's IVF policy in-line with Wiltshire CCGs policy in relation to the availability of fresh and frozen cycles.
- 3.8 We have shared our proposed approach to engaging with the public with Healthwatch Swindon who are supportive of how we intend to carry this out.

## 4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 None

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### 5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Legal and Human Rights Implications

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

Diversity Impact Assessment

We are undertaking an Equality Impact Assessment.

Risk Management

### 6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

### 7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None.

### 8. Appendices

- 8.1 None.