



*Newark and Sherwood  
Clinical Commissioning Group*

*Mansfield and Ashfield  
Clinical Commissioning Group*

# IVF (In-vitro fertilisation) Fertility Treatment Consultation

Consultation  
14 November 2016 - 13 January 2017

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# What is this consultation document about?

The local NHS has been very successful in treating more conditions and in helping people to live longer. Additional funding has been made available to the NHS, but new treatments, growing levels of long-term conditions and increasing expectations mean that we now have to re-prioritise how our precious NHS resources are deployed. As the health needs of our population change, we need to review how best to allocate the considerable resources available to us, so that maximum health benefits can be achieved overall.

As commissioners (Mansfield & Ashfield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Newark and Sherwood CCG) we plan and buy health care services for our local population. We have a legal duty to live within our means and we need to save around £20 million this year, roughly twice our normal savings requirement. This is likely to increase over the next few years. We need to ensure that there is enough money to maintain high quality and safe services.

We are asking the people of Mansfield, Ashfield, Newark and Sherwood to consider our proposals about eligibility for IVF on the NHS.

Responses received during the consultation period will be considered alongside the local health priorities of the CCGs and our duties concerning discrimination, quality and equality.

Consultation in the NHS is a process of dialogue, which influences formal decisions made by the NHS. The NHS has a legal duty to consult with people when considering proposals for substantial changes in healthcare provision.

The results of this consultation will be shared with the Governing Body in January 2017. A decision will be made by the Governing Body in February 2017. The outcome and decisions will be shared with stakeholders and the public in February 2017.



**Dr Amanda Sullivan**  
Chief Officer  
Mansfield and Ashfield  
Newark and Sherwood CCGs



**Dr Gavin Lunn**  
Clinical Chair  
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# Introduction

We recently asked local people to let us know their views about priorities for NHS funding. We ran 8 eight public engagement sessions and a survey. The aim was to take initial soundings about NHS priorities for funding. IVF was one of the areas that we identified for further review. We are now consulting with you about eligibility for IVF treatment on the NHS.

This document explains the context and reasons for this consultation, as well as outlining the process and steps which will follow. We hope to receive as many responses as possible from local people, including people from a variety of different ages and backgrounds.

The CCG Governing Bodies have agreed to consult on IVF treatment. The consultation period runs from 14 November 2016 until 13 January 2017. A decision will be made by the CCG Governing Bodies in February 2017.

## What is IVF?

IVF is a fertility treatment. It involves drug treatments to stimulate the ovaries, ultrasound-guided egg collection from the woman and sperm collection from the male. Eggs are mixed with sperm in the laboratory and fertilisation takes place outside of the body (in vitro). Healthy embryos are then inserted into the womb. Any viable embryo(s) not used in the initial treatment, can also be frozen for future use.

Fertility problems are relatively common in the UK and it is estimated that they affect one in seven couples. 84% of couples in the general population will conceive within one year if they do not use contraception and have regular sexual intercourse. Of those who do not conceive in the first year, about half will do so in the second year (cumulative pregnancy rate 92%). In 30% of infertility cases, the cause cannot be identified.

## What is the national guidance?

In 2013 national guidance was updated (National Institute of Clinical Excellence CG 156, February 2013). This guidance is advisory and offers best practice advice on assisting people of reproductive age who have problems conceiving.

NICE states that the term 'full cycle' is used to define a full IVF treatment, which should include 1 episode of ovarian stimulation and the transfer of any resultant fresh and frozen embryo(s). CCGs are advised to consider offering up to three IVF cycles and levels of provision vary across the country. Many CCGs are currently looking at how much IVF should be offered on the NHS.

## What is our current policy?

We currently fund one cycle of IVF. People sometimes pay privately for additional cycles as required.

The current policy defines that the fertility assessment and treatment service is restricted to women aged 42 and under at the time of referral into the services. There is currently no age limit for men. Where a woman is of reproductive age and having regular unprotected vaginal intercourse, two to three times per week, failure to conceive within 12 months should be taken as an indication for further assessment and possible treatment.

If the woman is aged 36 or over, then such assessment should be considered after six months of unprotected regular intercourse since her chances of successful conception are lower and the window of opportunity for intervention is less.

For women aged up to 42 years who have not conceived after two years of regular unprotected intercourse or a course of artificial insemination (inserting sperm directly into a woman's womb), this should be taken as an indication for consideration of IVF.

# National and local issues

The commissioning of fertility assessment and treatment services has a direct and significant impact on people who need IVF in order to conceive. Infertility can be caused by a wide range of medical and lifestyle factors. It can have a significant emotional impact on people who are unable to conceive.

People (both the public and clinicians themselves) have very diverse views about fertility treatment. Some people think that all fertility treatment should be funded, whilst others believe that this should not be available on the NHS. Some people believe that some level of funding should be offered.

There are a number of potential treatments for infertility in heterosexual and same sex couples, including medical and surgical interventions. However, some couples can only conceive with the help of complex treatments such as in-vitro fertilisation (IVF), Intracytoplasmic sperm injections (ICSI) or Intra-uterine insemination (IUI) – assisted conception.

## What is the effectiveness of IVF?

The clinical and cost-effectiveness, of IVF falls rapidly as age increases and female fertility declines.

The Human Fertilisation Embryology Authority (HFEA) publishes evidence of effectiveness of assisted conception; the latest published evidence is set out below.

This shows how many women had a live birth out of all the women who began a treatment cycle. A treatment cycle starts when a woman begins taking fertility drugs to stimulate egg production.



[http://guide.hfea.gov.uk/guide/HeadlineData.aspx?code=101&s=p&pv=NG197EP&d=12.1&nav=2&rate=i&rate\\_sub=FSO](http://guide.hfea.gov.uk/guide/HeadlineData.aspx?code=101&s=p&pv=NG197EP&d=12.1&nav=2&rate=i&rate_sub=FSO)

Age	Year of Treatment	2014
	18-34	33.7%
35-37	29.8%	
38-39	21.9%	
40-42	13.8%	
43-44	4.8%	
45+	1.2%	

Live births per treatment cycle started in the year ending 2nd quarter 2014 reported by HFEA 2014

## What are the financial considerations?

The demand pressures facing the NHS mean that health and social care services must change. Continuing with the current model of care will result in the NHS nationally facing a funding gap of around £30 billion between 2013 and 2021.

In mid-Nottinghamshire, health and social care services are facing the same pressures locally. Making small changes to the current system will not be enough. The funding gap in mid-Nottinghamshire for the same period is calculated at around £200 million. Fundamental change is therefore required and we have to prioritise resources in the areas that have the biggest benefit for the health of the population as a whole.

Local data shows that during the last year, 106 people received IVF with 35 resulting in a pregnancy, 34 resulting in no pregnancy, 7 cancelled and 30 still awaiting results.

## How much does IVF cost?

The current annual value, across mid Nottinghamshire is £300,000, based on funding one cycle of IVF.

# Options for IVF eligibility on the NHS

We are seeking your views on a range of options for IVF funding eligibility. These are shown below.

Option	Rationale	Impacts
Reduce the female age from 42 to 40 years old	The chances of IVF resulting in a live birth diminish with age. This would save an average of £15,000 per year	Women over 40 would not be eligible for IVF
Develop an age limit for men (There is currently no age range in the policy)	For couples having IVF, the risk of not having a baby is higher if the male partner is older. <a href="http://www.yourfertility.org.au/for-men/age">www.yourfertility.org.au/for-men/age</a> (Unable to calculate saving as there is no age limit at present)	There would be an age limit for men
Stop offering IVF on the NHS	There would be an annual saving of approximately £300,000	No new patients would be offered IVF on the NHS
Continue to fund 1 cycle of IVF for a very limited number of exceptional situations	This would involve a strict criteria and would save up to £240,000 A year	Only people with exceptional circumstances, would be eligible for IVF. This would be determined by a panel, with information from clinicians

In conducting a thorough consultation within mid-Nottinghamshire on the future commissioning practice of fertility assessment and treatment, we are seeking to ensure that commissioning is evidence-based and informed by the views of local people.

# The consultation process – how to take part

The consultation process is in line with [www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ppp-policy-statement.pdf](http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ppp-policy-statement.pdf) 2015 (NHS England's guidance for commissioners on involving the public in commissioning in line with the legal duty under section 13Q of the NHS act 2016, as amended)

The consultation process will include all mid-Nottinghamshire GP practices and Patient Participation Groups (PPGs). We will also communicate directly with health forums, HealthWatch, maternity services, parent / carer forums, voluntary sector partners, fertility service providers, the media, councils and lay members of the CCGs.

This document supports a consultation, which is open to all mid Nottinghamshire residents, people registered with a mid Nottinghamshire GP and other interested stakeholders for a period from 14 November 2016 through to 13 January 2017. The results will be shared with the Governing Body in January 2017. A decision will be made by the Governing Body in February 2017. Consultation results and decisions will be shared with stakeholders and the public in February 2017.

We aim to reach a comprehensive audience, to ensure that a full range of stakeholders, including seldom heard or vulnerable groups are given the opportunity to provide their views in a variety of ways. This has also been informed by an equality impact assessment.

Listed on the following pages are a series of questions relating to the information provided within this consultation document.

You can respond to the questions online by using this link [www.mansfieldandashfieldccg.nhs.uk](http://www.mansfieldandashfieldccg.nhs.uk) and completing the questionnaire on survey monkey

**Alternatively, you can reply by post, by sending the questionnaire to:**

**Consultation  
FREEPOST RTGE-CRAT-BABH  
NHS Mansfield & Ashfield CCG  
Hawthorn House  
Mansfield  
Notts  
NG21 0HJ**

The report will be made available on the CCGs websites or on request, using the contact details above or by calling **01623 673591**

# Consultation events

Why not come along to one of our public sessions to discuss your views with us and get your questions answered to allow you to make a decision.

Date	Time	Venue
5th December 2016	2-4pm	Mansfield Library Four Seasons Centre West Gate Mansfield Nottinghamshire NG18 1NH
8th December 2016	6-8pm	New Cross Community Centre 25 Downing Street Sutton-in-Ashfield NG17 4EF
14th December 2016	1-3pm	Holy Trinity Community Centre Boundary Road Newark Notts NG24 4AU
15th December 2016	6-8pm	Sherwood Forest Community Church Main Street Blidworth Mansfield Notts NG21 0PX

# Questions for consideration

**Question 1: Please tell us whether you are: (please tick one box):**

- Member of the general public living in Mansfield or Ashfield
  - Member of the general public living in Newark or Sherwood
  - An NHS provider
  - A social care provider
  - A private provider
  - A representative from the voluntary sector
  - Other (please specify)
- 

**Question 2: Having read the information provided above please indicate your preference below. You may choose more than one option.**

- Reduce the female age from 42 to 40 years old.

Comments

- Develop an age limit for men

Comments - What do you think the age limit should be?

- Stop offering IVF on the NHS

Comments

Continue to fund 1 cycle of IVF for a very limited number of exceptional situations

Comments and any ideas to what exceptional situations should be?

Any other comments

Please add extra sheets for comments if required.

We are committed to providing equal access to healthcare services to all members of the community. To achieve this, gathering the following information is essential and will help us ensure that we deliver the most effective and appropriate healthcare. There are some guidance notes on the next page.

**Responding to these questions is entirely voluntary and any information provided will remain anonymous.**



<b>What is your age? please write in the box below</b>						<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Prefer not to state</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> 18 or under	<input type="checkbox"/> 19-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 26-35	<input type="checkbox"/> 36-45	<input type="checkbox"/> 46-55	<input type="checkbox"/> 56-65	<input type="checkbox"/> 66 or over
<b>What is your gender?</b>						<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Prefer not to state</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Male			<input type="checkbox"/> Female			
<b>Do you/have you ever identified yourself as trans or transgender?</b>						<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Prefer not to state</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes			<input type="checkbox"/> No			
<b>What is your status?</b>						<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Prefer not to state</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Single			<input type="checkbox"/> Married/Civil partnership			
<input type="checkbox"/> Widow(er)			<input type="checkbox"/> With partner			
<input type="checkbox"/> Separated			<input type="checkbox"/> Divorced/Dissolved			
<b>Have you received NHS funded IVF?</b>						<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Prefer not to state</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes			<input type="checkbox"/> No			
<b>Have you received privately funded IVF?</b>						<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Prefer not to state</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes			<input type="checkbox"/> No			
<b>Are you pregnant or have you had a baby in the last six months?</b>						<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Prefer not to state</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable		
<b>Have you any other children over 6 months old?</b>						<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Prefer not to state</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable		
<b>Which of the following best describes how you think of yourself?</b>						<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Prefer not to state</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual (attracted to the opposite sex)			<input type="checkbox"/> Bisexual (attracted to both sexes)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian/Gay (attracted to the same sex)			<input type="checkbox"/> Other			
<b>Do you consider that you have a disability?</b>						<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Prefer not to state</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> I don't know		
<b>If yes, how would you describe your disability?</b>						<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Prefer not to state</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Sensory		<input type="checkbox"/> Learning		<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health		<input type="checkbox"/> Physical
<input type="checkbox"/> Other						
<b>Do you have a religion or belief?</b>						<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Prefer not to state</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Buddhism		<input type="checkbox"/> Christianity		<input type="checkbox"/> Hinduism		<input type="checkbox"/> Islam
<input type="checkbox"/> Judaism		<input type="checkbox"/> Sikhism		<input type="checkbox"/> No Religion		<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Religion/Belief						
<b>What is your first language? please write in the box below</b>						<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Prefer not to state</b>

<b>Please tell us your ethnic group</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Prefer not to state</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> African	<input type="checkbox"/> Arab	<input type="checkbox"/> Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Irish
<input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/> Polish
<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy/ Traveler	<input type="checkbox"/> Russian	<input type="checkbox"/> White British
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Please state			
<b>How satisfied are you with the way this consultation is being run?</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Prefer not to state</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Very satisfied	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	<input type="checkbox"/> Very dissatisfied
Comments:			

### Guidance notes to help you complete the form

If there is any information that you do not want to provide just tick the box Prefer not to state

#### Do you/have you ever identified yourself as trans or transgender?

The process of transitioning from one gender to another. A person who is transgender is someone who expresses themselves in a different gender to the gender they were assigned at birth. Although legislation covers gender reassignment, for the purposes of analysis we adopt the term 'trans' to encompass the wider community.

#### What is your status?

Marriage is defined as a legally or formally recognised union between 'a man and a woman' or 'two people of the same sex'. Same-sex couples can also have their relationship legally recognised as a 'civil partnership'. Civil partners must be treated the same as married couples on a wide range of legal matters.

#### Which of the following best describes how you think of yourself?

Whether a person's sexual attraction is towards their own sex, the opposite sex or to both sexes.

#### Do you consider that you have a disability?

The Equality Act 2010 states that a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a long term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities. Physical or mental impairment includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing.

#### Do you have a religion or belief?

Religion has the meaning usually given to it but belief includes religious and philosophical beliefs including lack of believe (such as atheism). Generally, a belief should affect your life choices or the way you live for it to be included in the definition.

#### Please tell us your ethnic group

Refers to the protected characteristic of race. It refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour and nationality (including citizenship), ethnic or national origins.

If you are hard of hearing, have sight impairment, English is not your first language or you require this in an easy read format please contact the Engagement and Communications Team via e-mail at [NHSCCG@bettertogether@nhs.net](mailto:NHSCCG@bettertogether@nhs.net) or telephone **01623 673591**

Once completed please send pages 9-12 to;

**Consultation**  
**FREEPOST RTGE-CRAT-BABH**  
**NHS Mansfield & Ashfield CCG**  
**Hawthorn House**  
**Mansfield**  
**Notts**  
**NG21 0HJ**

Thank you for your time  
 completing this questionnaire

