

Our Ref: 67513

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Re: Freedom of Information Request

Please find below the response to your recent Freedom of Information request regarding IVF for female same-sex couples within NHS South Sefton CCG.

Request/Response:

1. Please disclose:

- a. Whether or not South Sefton CCG funds IVF services for female same-sex couples?

This policy is intended, as per NICE guidance, for people who have a possible pathological problem (physical or psychological) to explain their subfertility. The CCG will fund subfertility treatment for same sex couples and single women provided there is evidence of proven subfertility.

- b. If so, how many cycles of IVF per couple does the CCG fund per couple?

At present, 3 cycles of IVF will be funded as long as the criteria is met.

2. If the answer to (1a) is yes, please disclose:

- a. Under South Sefton CCG's current policy, how many cycles of artificial insemination must be undertaken by a female same-sex couple in order to become eligible to access NHS-funded IVF?

Subfertility is defined as no live birth following artificial insemination (AI) of up to 6 cycles or proven by clinical investigation as per NICE guidance. AI must be undertaken in a clinical setting with an initial clinical assessment and appropriate investigations.

- b. How many of the above-mentioned cycles of artificial insemination must be self-funded by the couple?

The CCG will not fund the AI cycles referred to but will fund access to a clinical consultation to discuss options for attempting conception, further assessment and appropriate treatment.

3. Please disclose whether or not fertility services using donor sperm are provided under South Sefton CCG?

Yes

4. Please disclose how many cycles of IVF have been provided to female same-sex couples, funded by South Sefton CCG, in the last:
- One year (April 2020 – present)
 - Five years (April 2016 – present)?

With regards to Q4a – b, South Sefton CCG does not hold this information; you may wish to direct your query to then providers you can do so by contacting:

- The Royal Liverpool University Hospital – FOIRequests@liverpoolft.nhs.uk
- Liverpool Women's Hospital – FOI@lwh.nhs.uk

5. Please disclose:
- Whether or not South Sefton CCG's policy re. IVF access for female same-sex couples has been subject to any legal challenge?
 - If so, how much money has been paid out by South Sefton CCG in settlements to resolve these challenges in the last five years (April 2016 – present)?

With regards to Q5a – b, I can confirm that IVF access for female same-sex couples has not been subject to legal challenge.