

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: HOSC
DATE: 17th December 2013

RE: CCG IVF Policy Harmonisation

Purpose

Information update

1. To inform HOSC of Walsall CCG's participation (DH directive) in the Harmonisation process of Key policies, commencing with its IVF policy. A group of CCGs within the West Midlands (Birmingham, Blackcountry and Solihull) have collectively reviewed the variance in the level of service provision for IVF treatment. Aiming to ensure that the policy is fair and consistent instead of the existing 'postcode lottery' in which the service offered to women varies according to where they live.
2. To inform HOSC of the decision to increase the eligibility criteria, in line with 'clinical best practice' and the Law (Equality Act).
3. To inform HOSC of the collective CCG's decision to continue to only offer 1 cycle (NICE recommends 3)

Briefing Note

Key areas of proposed changes:

- Clear criteria to ensure those entering the IVF pathway are most likely to benefit from treatment i.e. are in optimal health to be able to conceive (non smoker, BMI <30)
- All CCGs will only offer one cycle (fresh) due to funding constraints
- The policy will allow same sex female couples, transgender males, single women and heterosexual women to access one cycle of IVF, provided they meet the eligibility criteria
- The policy will be subject to a statutory robust communication/engagement process in the New Year that will include: local event, Questionnaire, social media forums.

(See appendix 1 & 2 for info only)

Recommendations

Given the potentially emotive subject matter as well as the changes proposed in the revised policy, it was recommended that each CCG present the proposal to HOSC.

HOSC to agree to:

- Harmonisation Process
- Policy changes in line with clinical best practice/Law
- Continuation with 1 cycle, due to funding constraint's

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