Help us to shape local IVF services for the future

Introduction
When people living in the Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight or Portsmouth (SHIP) areas seek treatment for infertility, their local Clinical Commissioning Group is responsible for funding fertility services (such as In-Vitro Fertilisation, or IVF) to help women become pregnant.

IVF is a high-cost treatment and so it is important to make sure the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) across SHIP offer the treatment in the most effective way for the local population. They must also ensure that they balance the funding for this treatment alongside the other pressures on local NHS funding.

What is happening?
The SHIP-wide Priorities Committee has recently reviewed the most recent evidence of clinical and cost effectiveness for IVF and Intra-Cytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI). (For the purposes of this document, the term ‘IVF’ shall be considered to apply to both treatments). The Committee is now preparing a recommendation about the future commissioning of these services which will be considered by each of the CCGs. The local CCGs are keen to ensure they do this in light of the views of local people.

Why is this happening now?
In February 2013, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) published updated clinical guidelines: ‘Fertility: Assessment and treatment for people with fertility problems’. The non-compulsory guidelines included specific guidance for CCGs regarding IVF.

How does NHS funding work?
Each CCG is allocated an annual budget which it uses to commission (buy) a wide range of health services and treatments for local people. These services include urgent care services, treatment for long-term conditions such as diabetes or arthritis, community-based services, planned operations, x-rays and diagnostic tests.

The CCGs’ role includes researching and planning which services are needed most by the local population, buying those services at the best possible price, and monitoring those services to ensure they are delivering what was agreed, and what people need.

The NHS budget is limited so funding for any service or treatment must be balanced against the funding requirements for many other necessary local health services and treatments.

What is the current IVF policy?
There is a joint SHIP IVF Access Criteria which is available on each CCG’s website:

- [www.farehamandgosportccg.nhs.uk](http://www.farehamandgosportccg.nhs.uk) – covering Fareham, Portchester, Crofton, Titchfield, the Western Wards, Gosport, Bridgemary, Elson and Lee-on-the-Solent
- [www.isleofwightccg.nhs.uk](http://www.isleofwightccg.nhs.uk) – covering the Isle of Wight
- [www.northeasthampshireandfarnhamccg.nhs.uk](http://www.northeasthampshireandfarnhamccg.nhs.uk) – covering Aldershot, Farnborough, Yateley, Fleet and Farnham
The latest NICE guideline, a non-binding recommendation, is available at www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG156.

The following table shows the current SHIP access criteria compared to the 2013 NICE guideline:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Current SHIP access criteria</th>
<th>2013 NICE guidance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of woman at time of referral</td>
<td>Up to 35 years old (treatment must start before the woman is 35)</td>
<td>Up to and including 42 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of fresh and frozen cycles</td>
<td>Fresh cycle only</td>
<td>Full fresh cycle and all subsequent frozen cycles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of cycles available</td>
<td>One cycle</td>
<td>Three cycles to women under 40 years old (one cycle for women aged 40 to 42 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI eligibility</td>
<td>Women must have had a BMI of between 19.0 and 29.9 for six months or more</td>
<td>Offer advice to women with a BMI of 30 or over to lose weight in order to increase the success rate and reduce complications during their pregnancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking status</td>
<td>Couples must be non-smoking for at least six months in order to improve the likelihood of success.</td>
<td>Offer advice and refer to a local smoking cessation programme</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Seeking your views**

We are undertaking a period of engagement to gather the views on whether funding for IVF is a priority for the NHS and on the access criteria for treatment with local people, their representatives, GPs and interest groups. Each CCG will then consider the recommendation from the SHIP Priorities Committee in light of this valuable feedback.

**How can you share your views?**

There are two ways you can provide us with your views:

- By completing a brief online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/ivf-review-2014
- Completing the survey at the back of this document and posting it to:

  Communications and Engagement Team  
  South Eastern Hampshire CCG  
  Commissioning House, Building 003  
  Fort Southwick  
  James Callaghan Drive  
  Fareham. PO17 6AR
Responses must be received by October 19, 2014.

Please note that whilst all of the feedback will be collected and evaluated by South Eastern Hampshire CCG on behalf of all eight CCGs, each individual organisation will receive details of the views of their local residents, and make their own decision.

Further copies of this document are available from South Eastern Hampshire CCG. Please contact us by email sehccg.enquiries@nhs.net or by phone 023 9228 2085.

**How will my views be considered?**
All of the feedback will be evaluated on both a SHIP-wide, and an individual CCG area basis. This will form a single report which each CCG will use to help them when considering the SHIP Priorities Committee recommendation.

Each CCG will consider the recommendation at the following Governing Body meetings:

- Isle of Wight CCG – November 6, 2014
- North East Hampshire and Farnham CCG – November 12, 2014
- Portsmouth CCG – November 19, 2014
- North Hampshire CCG – November 25, 2014
- Southampton City CCG – November 26, 2014
- West Hampshire CCG – November 27, 2014
- Fareham and Gosport CCG – January 21, 2014
Help us to shape local IVF services for the future survey

You can complete this survey online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/ivf-review-2014.

Alternatively, please complete the following pages and return them to:

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Building 003
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Responses must be received by October 19, 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions (please tick only one answer for each)</th>
<th>Any further comments:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you think funding for IVF is a priority for the NHS?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Yes</td>
<td>Any further comments:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Don’t know</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ No opinion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evidence shows that the likelihood of IVF being successful reduces with age. With regard to age, do you think we should:

| □ Implement the NICE guideline in full including women up to and including 42 years old | Any further comments: |
| □ Keep the existing criteria where treatment is restricted to women receiving treatment before their 35th birthday | |
| □ Extend the current access criteria to include treatment for women before their 38th birthday | |
| □ Don’t know | |
| □ No opinion | |
With regard to the availability of **fresh and frozen** cycles, do you think we should:

- [ ] Implement the NICE guideline in full by offering a ‘full’ cycle, which includes a fresh cycle and all subsequent frozen cycles
- [ ] Keep the existing criteria by continuing to offer one fresh cycle
- [ ] Extend the current criteria to offer one fresh cycle, and one subsequent frozen cycle
- [ ] Don’t know
- [ ] No opinion

Any further comments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>With regard to the <strong>number</strong> of cycles available, do you think we should:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Implement the NICE guideline in full by offering three cycles to women under 40 years and one cycle for women aged between 40 and 42 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Keep the existing criteria by continuing to offer one cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Don’t know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] No opinion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any further comments:

Evidence shows that women who are obese (BMI of 30 or above) are less likely to become pregnant, and more likely to develop complications during pregnancy.

With regard to **weight**, do you think we should:

- [ ] Implement the NICE guideline in full by offering advice to women with a BMI of 30 (30kg/m2) or more to lose weight, in order to increase the success rate and reduce complications during their pregnancy
- [ ] Keep the existing criteria where women need to have had a BMI of between 19.0 and 29.9 for six months or more
- [ ] Don’t know
- [ ] No opinion

Any further comments:

(Please continue on the next page)
Evidence shows that women who smoke are less likely to become pregnant, and more likely to develop complications during pregnancy. With regard to **smoking**, do you think we should:

- [ ] Implement the NICE guideline in full by offering advice and referring to a smoking cessation programme
- [ ] Keep the existing criteria where couples must be non-smoking for at least 6 months
- [ ] Don’t know
- [ ] No opinion

Any further comments:

**About You…**

| Are you responding as: | ☐ A member of the public  
☐ A GP  
☐ A representative for an organisation (please name, or specify any other capacity in which you are responding): |
| --- | --- |

| Which CCG area are you from? | ☐ Fareham and Gosport: covering Fareham, Portchester, Crofton, Titchfield, the Western Wards, Gosport, Bridgemary, Elson and Lee-on-the-Solent  
☐ Isle of Wight  
☐ North East Hampshire and Farnham: covering Aldershot, Farnborough, Yateley, Fleet and Farnham  
☐ North Hampshire: covering Tadley, Kingsclere, Overton, Basingstoke, Alton, Hook, Harley, Wintney and Odiham  
☐ Portsmouth  
☐ South Eastern Hampshire: covering Havant, Waterlooville, Petersfield, Bordon and part of the South Downs National Park  
☐ Southampton  
☐ West Hampshire: covering Eastleigh, Test Valley, Winchester, Andover, Totton and Waterside, and the New Forest |
| --- | --- |

| How old are you? | ☐ 22 years or younger  
☐ 23 to 39 years old  
☐ 40 to 49 years old  
☐ 50 years or over |
| --- | --- |

| Have you or your partner ever had IVF treatment, or are seeking IVF treatment? | ☐ No - I have / my partner has never had IVF treatment, and neither I / my partner is seeking IVF treatment  
☐ Yes - I have / my partner has had IVF treatment, or are seeking IVF treatment |
| --- | --- |

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey and sharing your views with us.