

Assisted conception: proposed changes to existing criteria in the new interim policy



Staffordshire and
Stoke-on-Trent
Integrated Care Board

September 2023

Proposed criteria	Impact		
	North Staffordshire	Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula, and Stafford and Surrounds	Stoke-on-Trent
Number of cycles: Commission one cycle using fresh or frozen embryo	Addition of frozen embryo transfer – currently commissions fresh embryo transfer only	Unchanged	Reduction from 2 cycles with up to 1 fresh and 3 frozen embryo transfers per cycle
Age: Women: 23–39 years old Men: no upper age limit	Women – increase in upper age limit from 35 to 39 Men – previous upper age limit of 55	Unchanged	Unchanged
Single infertile women: Do not commission	Currently, the same criteria are in place as for same-sex female couples. However, in practice the policy requires patients to be in a stable relationship and therefore single women cannot access treatment	Unchanged	Unchanged
IUI (intra-uterine insemination): Do not commission	Currently commissions 3 cycles of IUI (in place of IVF if requested)	Unchanged	Unchanged
Investigations: Do not apply eligibility criteria	Investigations currently not commissioned if patients do not meet eligibility criteria for IVF	Unchanged	Unchanged
Ovarian reserve: A threshold of AMH >3 will be applied to all women aged 35 or over for access to IVF treatment	Previously no requirement to measure ovarian reserve. However, the policy did not fund IVF where the woman was aged 35 or over	Unchanged	Previously no requirement to measure ovarian reserve

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Donor eggs: Do not commission	Unchanged	Donor eggs commissioned in cases of premature ovarian failure, gonadal dysgenesis including Turner syndrome, bilateral oophorectomy, ovarian failure following chemotherapy or radiotherapy	Unchanged
Relationship status: Must be in a stable relationship and cohabiting (living together) for at least 2 years	Unchanged	Currently, must have been in a stable relationship for more than 2 years Must have been trying to conceive for 2 years if woman is under 35, and 1 year if woman is over 35	Currently, must have been in a stable relationship and cohabiting for at least 1 year
Alcohol: Couples must score less than 5 on the Audit C Test	Currently – general advice on alcohol use	Currently not listed within the policy	Unchanged
Welfare of the Child: Couples must conform to the statutory 'Welfare of the Child' requirements	Unchanged	Currently not listed in the policy	Unchanged
Sperm washing: For couples where the man is HIV positive and either he is not compliant with HAART or his plasma viral load is 50 copies/ml or greater, offer sperm washing	Commissioned, however criteria are not provided	Currently not listed in policy	Currently not commissioned

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<p>Patient registration status: The female patient must be registered with a GP within Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICB</p>	Unchanged	Not detailed in policy	Currently expects both patients to be registered within Stoke-on-Trent
<p>Duration of infertility: Failure to conceive within 12 months unless there is a known cause of infertility</p>	Currently requires 2 years	Unchanged	Unchanged
<p>Previous IVF cycles: Where couples have previously self-funded, they may receive 1 NHS cycle provided they have not received more than 2 complete cycles of privately funded treatment</p>	Currently not eligible where they have previously self-funded IVF cycles	Unchanged	Currently not eligible where they have self-funded 2 cycles of IVF. If they have funded 1 cycle of IVF, they may receive 1 NHS-funded cycle
<p>Storage of gametes and embryos as part of IVF: Funded for up to 12 months.</p>	Currently funded until the end of the year in which the first cycle is completed	Currently funded for 3 years or 6 months after successful live birth, whichever is shorter	Unchanged
<p>Handling of existing frozen embryos from previous cycles: All stored and viable embryos must be used before a new cycle commences (includes embryos from self-funded cycles)</p>	Currently not listed in policy	Unchanged	Currently not listed in policy
<p>IVF treatment for seriously injured veterans: Armed forces compensation scheme added as outside of scope of policy.</p>	Currently states patients should receive 3 cycles in line with the Lord Boyce review of the armed forces compensation scheme	Currently not listed in policy	Currently not listed in policy