

Thursday 13 August 2020

Letter sent to all North Central London general practices

Dear colleagues,

North Central London CCG (NCL CCG) is writing to all general practices in Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington regarding three matters related to our fertility policies:

Expanded Age Criteria for Fertility Treatment (including IVF)

The NCL CCG fertility policies for Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington have all been revised to expand the age criteria for fertility treatment (including IVF). Women are now eligible for referral up to their 43rd birthday.

The revised policy for each borough has been published on the relevant borough GP website. The table at the end of this letter details the revisions. All other policy criteria and sections remain valid and must be checked alongside the age criteria before a referral for fertility treatment is made.

NCL CCG has informed relevant fertility service providers of the revised age criteria. The CCG will also write to practices / providers who made an Independent Funding Request (IFR) for a patient that was subsequently rejected on the basis of age but who is now eligible for fertility treatment (if all other policy criteria are met). We have developed an information sheet to help you answer patient questions related to this matter, attached with this letter.

Pause in fertility services due to Covid-19

During the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic fertility services in England closed temporarily. There may be women already in a planned fertility treatment pathway who will have turned 42 (the former upper age limit) during the pause in fertility services. Given the expanded age criteria now in place, and in parallel with advice from the NCL Ethical Advisory Committee, we can confirm that these women can continue their treatment in the planned fertility pathway.

Practices are asked to undertake the following:

- Ensure all relevant staff, including locums, are made aware of the revision to the age criteria element of the fertility policy relevant to your borough.
- Consider whether your practice has any patients who may be impacted by this change in policy and take appropriate actions accordingly.
- Support and provide information to any patients who are already in a planned treatment pathway, who may have queries on this policy change.

Review to inform the development of a single fertility policy for North Central London
 NCL CCG is commencing an Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) Review to determine recommendations that will feed into the development of a single NCL policy. Clinicians and other audiences will be able to inform the Review and we will share more information with your practice as part of the Review process.

If you have any questions or require any further advice or information on these matters, please contact us via Nclccg.art@nhs.net.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Mansuralli
 Executive Director of Strategic Commissioning
 North Central London CCG

Revised eligibility criteria for treatment in North Central London fertility policies

Borough	Previous Eligibility Criteria	Revised Eligibility Criteria
Barnet	<p>3. Age of the female patient IVF is offered to women aged under 42 years old.</p> <p>Women aged 40-41 will only be offered treatment if they have never previously had IVF treatment (however funded)</p> <p>Referring clinicians should be aware of the work up time required by the providing trusts, and ensure that referrals are made in time for women to start their first treatment cycle before their 42nd birthday.</p> <p>6.1 Number of cycles to be funded for women aged 40 to 41 years old Barnet CCG will fund one full cycle of IVF with or without ICSI to patients aged 40 or 41 years who have not previously had any IVF treatment, however funded.</p> <p>The full IVF cycle will consist of one fresh and one frozen embryo/ blastocyst transfer.</p>	<p>3. Age of the female patient IVF is offered to women aged under 43 years old.</p> <p>Women aged 40, 41 or 42 years old will only be offered treatment if they have never previously had IVF treatment (however funded).</p> <p>Referring clinicians should be aware of the work up time required by the providing trusts, and ensure that referrals are made in time for women to start their first treatment cycle before their 43rd birthday.</p> <p>6.1 Number of cycles to be funded for women aged 40, 41 or 42 years old The CCG will fund one full cycle of IVF with or without ICSI to patients aged 40, 41 or 42 years old who have not previously had any IVF treatment, however funded.</p> <p>The full IVF cycle will consist of one fresh and one frozen embryo/ blastocyst transfer.</p>
Camden	3. Age of the female patient	3. Age of the female patient

	<p>IVF is offered to women aged under 42 years old. Women should be referred so that they can commence a treatment cycle before their 42nd birthday.</p> <p>Women aged 40-41 will only be offered treatment if they have never previously had IVF treatment.</p> <p>Referring clinicians should be aware of the work up time required by the providing trusts, and ensure that referrals are made in time for women to start their first treatment cycle before their 42nd birthday.</p> <p>6.1 Number of cycles to be funded for women aged 40 to 41 years old Women aged 40-41 years old will be offered a maximum of one fresh embryo transfer and one frozen embryo transfer, provided they have not previously undertaken IVF.</p>	<p>IVF is offered to women aged under 43 years old.</p> <p>Women aged 40, 41 and 42 years old will only be offered treatment if they have never previously had IVF treatment.</p> <p>Referring clinicians should be aware of the work up time required by the providing trusts, and ensure that referrals are made in time for women to start their first treatment cycle before their 43rd birthday.</p> <p>6.1 Number of cycles to be funded for women aged 40, 41 and 42 years old Women aged 40, 41 and 42 years old will be offered a maximum of one fresh embryo transfer and one frozen embryo transfer, provided they have not previously undertaken IVF.</p>
Enfield	<p>4.2 Age of the female patient IVF is offered to women aged up to and including 41 years old. Women should be referred so that they can commence a treatment cycle before their 42nd birthday.</p> <p>Referring clinicians should be aware of the work up time required by the providing trusts, and ensure that referrals for older women are made in time for them to commence a treatment cycle before their 42nd birthday.</p>	<p>4.2. Age of the female patient IVF is offered to women aged under 43 years old.</p> <p>Referring clinicians should be aware of the work up time required by the providing trusts, and ensure that referrals are made in time for women to start their first treatment cycle before their 43rd birthday.</p>
Haringey	<p>6.2 Age of the female patient IVF is offered to women aged up to 41 years old.</p> <p>Referring clinicians should be aware of the work up time required by the providing trusts, and ensure that referrals for older women are made in time for them to commence a treatment cycle before their 42nd birthday.</p> <p>In accordance with NICE guidance: IVF will be offered to women aged over 40 only if they have never previously accessed IVF treatment, whether funded privately or by the NHS and women aged over 40 will be offered only one full cycle of IVF.</p>	<p>6.2 Age of the female patient IVF is offered to women aged under 43 years old.</p> <p>Referring clinicians should be aware of the work up time required by the providing trusts, and ensure that referrals are made in time for women to start their first treatment cycle before their 43rd birthday.</p> <p>In accordance with NICE guidance: IVF will be offered to women aged 40, 41 or 42 only if they have never previously accessed IVF treatment, whether funded privately or by the NHS. Women aged 40, 41 or 42 will be offered only one full cycle of IVF.</p>

<p>Islington</p>	<p>3. Age of the female patient IVF is offered to women aged under 42 years old. Women should be referred so that they can commence a treatment cycle before their 42nd birthday.</p> <p>Women aged 40-41 will only be offered treatment if they have never previously had IVF treatment.</p> <p>Referring clinicians should be aware of the work up time required by the providing trusts, and ensure that referrals are made in time for women to start their first treatment cycle before their 42nd birthday.</p> <p>6.1 Number of cycles to be funded for women aged 40 to 41 years old Women aged 40-41 years old will be offered a maximum of one fresh embryo transfer and one frozen embryo transfer, provided they have not previously undertaken IVF.</p>	<p>3. Age of the female patient IVF is offered to women aged under 43 years old.</p> <p>Women aged 40, 41 and 42 years old will only be offered treatment if they have never previously had IVF treatment.</p> <p>Referring clinicians should be aware of the work up time required by the providing trusts, and ensure that referrals are made in time for women to start their first treatment cycle before their 43rd birthday.</p> <p>6.1 Number of cycles to be funded for women aged 40, 41 and 42 years old Women aged 40, 41 and 42 years old will be offered a maximum of one fresh embryo transfer and one frozen embryo transfer, provided they have not previously undertaken IVF.</p>
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