

Proposal

NHS Haringey wishes to engage with key stakeholders on its proposal to introduce a one year suspension of the provision of fertility treatments to residents in Haringey. The suspension would include most of the people currently on the waiting list for treatment, although there would be some exclusions.

NHS Haringey intends to introduce this measure because of the financial pressures that currently exist on its budget. This means it has to make difficult decisions around which services it must prioritise over others for funding.

NHS Haringey's proposal to temporarily suspend IVF treatments in Haringey

The number of cycles funded by PCTs varies across the country. Locally, NHS Manchester and NHS Bolton have historically only funded one cycle; more recently NHS Warrington, NHS Stockport and NHS Bury have suspended treatment as a result of cost pressures.

Given the pressures on its budget, NHS Haringey is forced to make decisions about which services it will choose to fund, and those service it chooses either to reduce funding for, or stop funding altogether.

NHS Haringey therefore proposes to suspend its funding of fertility treatments in 2011/12, as it believes that there are other more important services that it needs to continue to fund. Like most other primary care trusts that offer fertility treatments, NHS Haringey has a long waiting list for treatments, i.e. people who have been accepted for IVF/ICSI treatment but, for various reasons, have not yet received it. There are currently 110 people waiting for IVF treatment in Haringey. The suspension would apply to these people on the waiting list as well unless:

- women who will be the age of 40 by 31 March 2012;
- Patients who have started IVF work up and drug regime;
- Patients on a waiting list for donor eggs; and
- Egg and sperm retrieval and storage for patients who are due to undergo life saving treatment which may cause infertility

PATIENT PATHWAY

GPs will either test for infertility or refer to consultant gynaecologist.

Once infertility is confirmed the patient details are sent to the PCT to confirm whether the criteria are met and if funding is available.

The patient is given choice of provider at the point of funding being confirmed

and advised to research the providers using the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority web-site.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed (attached – appendix A) and presented to the NHS Haringey Board.

Also attached (Appendix B) – Consultation Document