

HEALTHIER PEOPLE,  
BETTER FUTURE



Heywood, Middleton  
and Rochdale  
Clinical Commissioning Group

# Public consultation: Seeking your views on IVF



## **Introduction**

Patients and the public are invited to share their views on NHS Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale Clinical Commissioning Group's proposals to change the number of funded In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) cycles available to patients.

The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will run the consultation from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018 to Wednesday 16th January 2019.

## **What is IVF?**

IVF is one of several techniques available to try to help a woman have a baby.

During IVF, an egg is removed from the woman's ovaries and fertilised with sperm in a laboratory. The fertilised egg (embryo) is then replaced into the woman's womb to grow and develop. A couple's own eggs and partner's sperm can be used, or eggs or sperm from donors.

## **What is an IVF cycle?**

One cycle of IVF comprises an episode of ovarian stimulation, egg recovery, insemination and embryo replacement. Any other fertilised eggs that are viable are frozen.

A full cycle of IVF includes one episode of ovarian stimulation, egg recovery, insemination, and embryo replacement into the womb. The cycle ends with the final transfer of all resultant fresh and frozen embryos or a successful live birth occurring during the cycle.

## **How many cycles of IVF are currently offered in Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale?**

The current offer is up to 3 funded cycles per patient (the maximum funded by any CCG in England). This is in line with national guidance on fertility which can be accessed [here](#).

The national guidance for fertility does not have to be followed as a mandatory requirement. As such, more than 75% of CCGs in England offer one funded cycle to patients.

## **Who provides IVF services to Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale patients?**

The two main organisations that provide this service are Manchester University Foundation Trust (an NHS Organisation) and Care Manchester (a private organisation). There are a number of other organisations who provide IVF treatment across Greater Manchester and the North West to HMR patients.

## **How many people in Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale access IVF services?**

We do not know the exact number of patients who access IVF treatment services or the specific number of IVF cycles each patient receives as part of their treatment. This is because the CCG follows strict rules surrounding the use of patient data and we do not hold information that allows us to identify individuals who receive treatment.

We are able to record information on the number of funded IVF cycles. We know that over the course of the last two financial years (2016/17 and 2017/18), the CCG funded a total of 659 cycles of IVF.

## **How much does the CCG currently spend on IVF treatment?**

Over the past two years, the CCG has spent an average of £423,000 per year on IVF treatments for Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale patients.

## **How successful is IVF treatment?**

The success rate of IVF depends on a number of different factors.

The overall chance of a live birth following IVF treatment falls with rising female age. Between 2014 and 2016, the percentage of IVF treatments nationally that resulted in live birth were as follows:

- 29% for women under 35
- 23% for women aged 35 to 37
- 15% for women aged 38 to 39
- 9% for women aged 40 to 42
- 3% for women aged 43 to 44
- 2% for women aged over 44

National guidance does not currently recommend that women over the age of 42 receive IVF treatment as the chances of a successful pregnancy are considered to be too low.

The guidance also states that the overall chance of a live birth falls as the number of completed IVF cycles that are unsuccessful increases.

## Proposal

The CCG has a duty to secure the best investment for the funds that we have been allocated to provide high quality care for local people.

We have considered a number of different consultation options regarding the future of funded IVF cycles for patients in Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale.

### Consultation Options

Option	IVF Cycle Offer	Potential annual cost saving (based on 17/18 spending)
A	Current policy (3 funded cycles of IVF)	No saving
B	Offer 2 funded cycles of IVF	£98,000
C	Offer 1 funded cycle of IVF	£259,000
D	Offer 0 funded cycles of IVF	£429,113

The CCG's preferred option for future IVF funding is Option C (Offer 1 funded cycle of IVF). This would bring our local IVF policy in line with the majority of other CCGs in England.

All other aspects of the IVF policy eligibility criteria will remain the same.

### How will we consult on the proposed changes?

The consultation period will run for 6 weeks. During this time, feedback on the proposed changes can be made at the following:

An online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Z76B9FK>

Via e-mail at [hmrcommunications@nhs.net](mailto:hmrcommunications@nhs.net) (please note that the e-mail address is only monitored between the hours of 9am-5pm).

If you would like a copy of this consultation in a different format, please contact us on the e-mail address above or by telephone on 01706 652853.

### What will happen after the consultation period?

All feedback from the consultation period will help to inform the final decision made on IVF treatment. This decision will be made by our Integrated Commissioning Board (ICB) which is a meeting held in public and the outcome of the decision will be published via our website and social media platforms.