

NHS Harrogate & Rural District Clinical Commissioning Group (HaRD CCG)

Assisted Conception (“IVF”) Treatment – Information for Patients

Your specialist has recommended that Assisted Conception (popularly known as IVF) is the next step in the treatment of your fertility difficulties. As you are a patient of a general practice that is part of NHS HaRD CCG, we would like to make you aware of the next steps before this treatment can take place.

Assisted Conception treatment has not been routinely commissioned (or paid for) by North Yorkshire & York Primary Care Trust for some years. When HaRD CCG replaced the PCT in April 2013 it adopted the PCT’s policy, but decided to review it in the light of updated national guidelines, a new Yorkshire & the Humber regional commissioning policy, and the CCG’s financial circumstances.

The Governing Body discussed its policy at its meetings in November 2013 and April 2014. At the April meeting it agreed to start commissioning some assisted conception treatment. A copy of the current policy can be obtained by contacting the CCG at the address on this leaflet.

Before your treatment can begin, your doctor has to contact the CCG for approval. Your specialist will have checked you are eligible for treatment, and the CCG will confirm this, but also has a legal duty not to overspend funds allocated to it by the NHS and so needs to monitor the number of people being treated and the total cost of their treatment. There is a possibility that the CCG will have to stop routinely approving requests for treatment if the available money is spent.

If this is the case, then your doctor will be told by the CCG that unfortunately approval for your treatment cannot be granted at this time. However, your details will be kept on record by the CCG. Once the CCG is able to start approving treatment again, doctors will be contacted about each patient still eligible for treatment in turn so that approval can be granted.

The CCG has taken an important step in starting to commission assisted conception treatment, but recognises that the current arrangements are not ideal and we apologise if the uncertainty causes you any distress. However, this system is necessary in order to make sure that the CCG can re-introduce assisted conception commissioning in a way that allows it to meet all its responsibilities.

Your GP and specialist have been sent detailed information explaining the CCG’s policy and should be able to answer any questions you may have.

The CCG can be contacted at:

NHS Harrogate and Rural District CCG
1 Gimbald Crag Court, St James Business Park
Knaresborough, HG5 8QB
Telephone: 01423 799300
Email: hardccg.enquiries@nhs.net