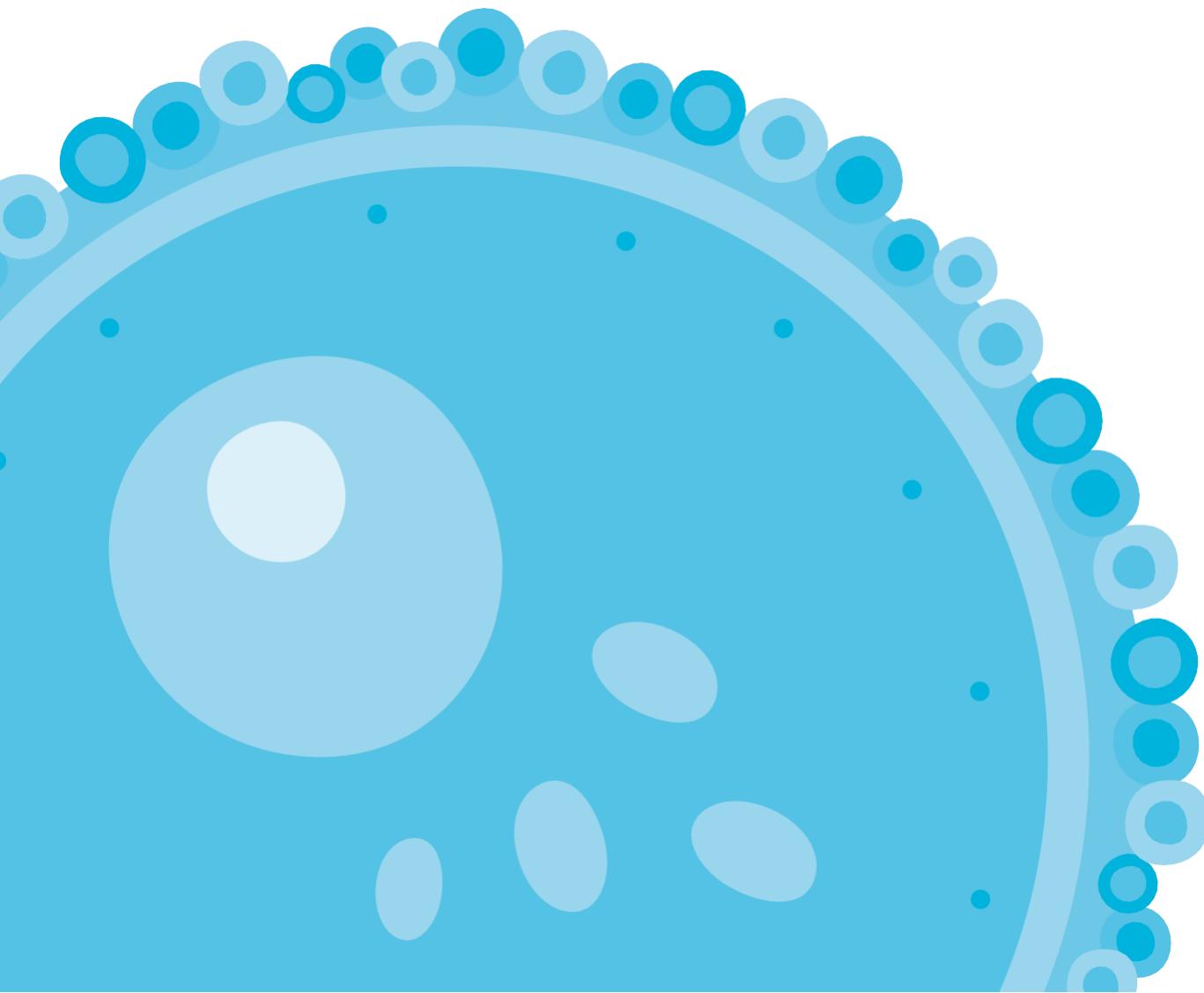


Developing one fertility policy for North Central London



Developing a new Fertility Policy for North Central London

North Central London Clinical Commissioning Group (NCL CCG) plans and pays for a wide range of health and care services in Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington. We are currently working to develop a new fertility policy for North Central London, and are seeking views on the draft policy. This leaflet provides information on the draft fertility policy, including how we developed it and how you can share feedback with us. The draft policy can be read here: www.northcentrallondonccg.nhs.uk/fertilitypolicies

Fertility Medicines and Treatments

There are a range of medicines and treatments available that can help people to conceive, many of which are NHS-funded. Some are provided via a person's GP and some from fertility clinics. Everyone's fertility 'journey' will differ depending on personal circumstances. However, many people start by speaking to their GP - who will provide advice and may undertake, or refer a person or couple for, initial investigations. These can include blood tests, sperm-testing and scans.

A couple or individual may be referred by their GP to a fertility clinic (usually based at a local hospital) that can prescribe medicines and offer a range of treatments. One of the most widely known treatments is in vitro fertilisation (IVF) but, in fact, only a small proportion of people who have difficulty conceiving will need a treatment such as IVF.

Current North Central London Fertility Policies

North Central London CCG currently has five separate fertility policies in place - one for each of the boroughs (Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington). This is because before we formed one CCG in 2020, the old CCGs each had its own policy. These can be found on our website: www.northcentrallondonccg.nhs.uk/fertilitypolicies

These policies set out:

- Which fertility treatments (e.g. IVF, intrauterine insemination) and other services (e.g. sperm washing for men living with HIV, freezing of eggs, sperm or embryos for people undergoing treatment that may affect their future fertility) are funded by the NHS to patients in each borough; and
- The eligibility criteria patients must meet to receive and be referred for these fertility treatments (e.g. age, smoking status).

Developing the new single Fertility Policy

The first stage of work undertaken by NCL CCG was a review, which has now been completed. Although no decisions were taken at this stage, the Review shaped a set of recommendations to inform the development of a new single policy. The recommendations covered the policy, the communication and implementation of the policy and supporting the application of the policy and pathway. The [Recommendations Report](#) and a detailed report on the [public engagement](#) are available on our website: www.northcentrallondonccg.nhs.uk/fertilitypolicies

The Review explored:

- NICE clinical guidance and other national guidance
- Current position (characteristics of the local population (epidemiology), existing policies, current activity and expenditure)
- The potential impact of different scenarios estimated through modelling
- The views of stakeholders including specialist clinicians, residents, fertility service users, voluntary and community groups, fertility groups and others on our current policies, and what should be considered in the development of a new, single policy
- Identification and consideration of potential equality and equity issues, especially for protected characteristics groups (defined by the Equality Act 2010).

Key information about the draft Fertility Policy

We have now drafted a single fertility policy for North Central London - which you can find on our website:

www.northcentrallondonccg.nhs.uk/fertilitypolicies

If implemented, the policy would ensure equitable provision of NHS-funded treatment across the five boroughs in North Central London. This represents a significant improvement for most of our population as it expands the provision of NHS-funded fertility treatment in a number of boroughs.

The draft policy is also more closely aligned to NICE guidance than our current five policies. NICE guidance is the main national clinical guidance used by CCGs to inform local fertility policies. In a limited number of areas the draft policy varies from the full recommendations made by NICE. A range of factors, including affordability, were taken into consideration.

A single policy would offer residents and clinicians greater clarity and consistency on the eligibility, provision and funding of specialist fertility treatments. By offering more equitable and consistent access to specialist fertility treatments, we envisage this would also improve patients' experience.

Key elements of the draft policy are set out below, and the table at the end of the leaflet compares the current five policies, the new draft policy and NICE guidance.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE DRAFT FERTILITY POLICY

- IVF cycles - the draft policy proposes up to 6 embryo transfers, from a maximum of 3 fresh IVF cycles, are funded in eligible women under 40. This is broadly consistent with NICE guidelines, and is an increase compared to four current policies and equal to current provision in Camden.
- Funding intrauterine insemination (IUI) for eligible female same sex couples and single women have not managed to conceive after 6 cycles of self-funded IUI - this was previously only funded in 2 boroughs
- Funding donor eggs and sperm for use in NHS fertility treatment - previously not funded in any boroughs.
- Ovarian reserve eligibility criteria included for women of all ages (varies from NICE guidance; which only recommends this for women aged 40-42). Low ovarian reserve is linked to a decreased chance of a live birth.
- Female same sex couples (and others not trying to conceive through sexual intercourse) who do not have a known cause of infertility required to undergo 6 unsuccessful artificial insemination before they are eligible for NHS funded IUI (aligned with NICE guidance). IUI needs to be undertaken in a fertility clinic, to ensure it is effective, safe and reduces legal risks for patients (this is not specified in NICE guidance).
- Women of all ages who do not have a diagnosis which indicates they will not conceive naturally, will need to try to conceive for 2 years before being eligible for IVF (aligned to NICE guidance) - current policies allow heterosexual women aged >36 to be referred for IVF after 1 year of trying to conceive.

We carefully considered the equality impact of the draft policy - on age, race, religion, sexual orientation, disability and other protected characteristics. Overall, the draft policy has a positive impact for most protected characteristic groups. By offering more equitable and consistent access to treatments, we envisage this will improve patients' experience and reduce inequity between residents with greater resource and those who experience greater deprivation.

KEY EQUALITY ASPECTS OF THE DRAFT FERTILITY POLICY

The policy:

- Is inclusive of individuals with HIV, a physical disability, psychosexual problems, people undergoing cancer treatment, and undergoing gender reassignment.
- Accommodates couples with unexplained infertility, mild endometriosis or mild male factor infertility who have social, cultural or religious objections to undergoing IVF
- Follows national guidance on preserving donor eggs or sperm (gametes) where a person is about to undergo a procedure that could harm their gametes. This could include procedures such as chemotherapy or gender reassignment
- Supports patients from different socio-economic backgrounds to access NHS fertility treatments by not requiring patients to pay for donor eggs or sperm to be used in their NHS treatment.
- Includes single women on the same basis as female same sex couples
- Follows national guidance on the age of the woman, body mass index and no smoking eligibility criteria to access fertility treatment.

However, the policy:

- Does not fund treatment involving surrogates for any patient groups. This may impact on male same sex couples, single men and those with a disability that means they cannot carry a pregnancy.
- Only funds fertility treatment for people who do not already have a living child (for those in a couple, at least one partner should not have a living child), to prioritise those with the most need.

Sharing your views

There are a range of ways you can share views on the draft fertility policy with us:

Questionnaire

A questionnaire is available on the NCL CCG website:
www.northcentrallondonccg.nhs.uk/fertilitypolicies

You can complete and return a hard copy of the questionnaire via freepost.
Please address your envelope to: **Freepost NCL FERTILITY POLICIES**

If you need assistance completing this questionnaire or would like to request a hard copy version is sent to you, please email: nclccg.fertility-development@nhs.net

Public meetings

We will be running a number of events to share information about the fertility policy development and seek your views on the draft policy. To register to attend one of these **online** events, please visit the Eventbrite links:

Barnet	Thursday 9 December 2021	3.00pm - 4.30pm
	https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/207865680847	
Camden	Tuesday 14 December 2021	10.30am - 12.00pm
	https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/207905650397	
Enfield	Thursday 16 December 2021	3.00pm - 4.30pm
	https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/207906713577	
Haringey	Wednesday 12 January 2022	10.00am - 11.30am
	https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/207911728577	
Islington	Monday 17 January 2022	3.00pm - 4.30pm
	https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/207914466767	
NCL wide	Saturday 29 January 2022	11.30am - 1.00pm
	https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/207916723517	

We hope to hold the following event in person, but this may be impacted by current COVID-19 guidance. Venue details will be updated on our website.

NCL wide	Thursday 20 January 2022	5.30pm - 7.00pm
	https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/207925028357	

Invite us to join a meeting

The CCG is happy to come and talk about the Fertility Policy development at any meetings or events happening across North Central London, for example, local Fertility Support Groups or GP Patient Participation Groups etc. To invite us to join a meeting please email: nclccg.fertility-development@nhs.net

Any questions

If you have any questions you can email: nclccg.fertility-development@nhs.net

About North Central London Clinical Commissioning Group (NCL CCG)

North Central London Clinical Commissioning Group (NCL CCG) plans and pays for a wide range of health and care services across Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington. NCL CCG was formed in April 2020, bringing together the CCGs of the five boroughs.

NCL CCG is responsible for commissioning services and treatments that best meet the needs of our local population. We are also responsible for developing a range of policies, some related to specific services. In developing policies, we consider guidelines, latest clinical and scientific evidence, and the views of local clinicians, patients and service users.

We carefully consider how to make the best use of our NHS budget to deliver the best health and care outcomes for all residents. This sometimes means making difficult decisions on how to allocate funding. When one of our policies does not fully align with national guidance, or does not offer unlimited access to treatments, we will always explain the basis for this decision.

Comparison table: draft NCL policy, national guidance and current policies

Policy aspect	Draft new policy	NICE recommendations	Current local policies				
			Barnet	Camden	Enfield	Haringey	Islington
No. IVF cycles in eligible women <40	6 embryo transfers from a max of 3 fresh cycles (all good quality frozen embryos should be transferred before starting next fresh cycle)	3 full cycles*	1 fresh + 1 frozen	3 fresh + 3 frozen	1 fresh + 1 frozen	1 fresh + 1 frozen	2 embryo transfers
IUI for eligible same sex couples	Up to 6 cycles funded for patients who have not got pregnant following 6 cycles of self-funded IUI	6 cycles for patients who have not got pregnant following 6 cycles of artificial insemination	Not funded	Not funded	Funded for patients who have not got pregnant following 6 cycles of self-funded IUI	Funded	Not funded
IVF and IUI using donor sperm	IVF and IUI and donor sperm funded for NICE recommended indications	Recommended for specific Indications***	IVF and IUI funded where donor sperm funded by patient	Not funded	IVF and IUI funded where donor sperm funded by patient	IVF and IUI funded where donor sperm funded by patient	IVF and IUI funded where donor sperm funded by patient
IVF using donor egg	IVF and donor egg funded for NICE recommended indications	Recommended for specific Indications***	IVF funded where donor egg funded by patient	Not funded	IVF funded where donor egg funded by patient	Not funded	IVF funded where donor egg funded by patient
Duration of trying to conceive by sexual intercourse **	2 years: applies to women of all ages	2 years; applies to women of all ages	Aged <36: 2 years Aged ≥36: 1 year	Aged <36: 2 years Aged ≥36: 1 year	Aged <36: 2 years Aged ≥36: 1 year	Aged <36: 2 years Aged ≥36: 1 year	Aged <36: 2 years Aged ≥36: 1 year
Ovarian reserve criterion	Applies to women of all ages	Applies to women aged 40-42	Applies to women of all ages	Applies to women of all ages	Applies to women of all ages	Applies to women of all ages	Applies to women of all ages

*Full cycle = 1 episode of ovarian stimulation plus transfer of any resultant fresh and frozen embryos.

**Does not apply if there is a known cause of infertility where patients should be referred for IVF without delay

***www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg156



If you would like more information on the North Central London Fertility Policy Development, or if you would like this leaflet translated contact:
nclccg.fertilitydevelopment@nhs.net

ان كنت ترغ ب في الحصول على مزيد من المعلومات حول تطوير سياسات الخصوبة في شمال وسط لندن أو ترغب في ترجمة هذه النشرة، فاتصل
nclccg.fertility-development@nhs.net

যদি আবিন নথ সেন্ট্রাল লন্ডন ফার্টিলিটি ফিসজি বিভাগ (North Central London Fertility Policies Review) সম্পর্কে আবিন এই জ্ঞাননত চিন বি দেখতে প্রচারপত্রটি চিন তিনন্য অনু দত

nclccg.fertility-review@nhs.net

আভাবসানইটি

মাধ্যমে যোগাযোগ
করুন

Haddii aad jeelaan lahayd macluumaad dheeri ah oo ku saabsan Dib-u-eegista Siyaasadaha Taranka ee Bartamaha Waqooyiga London (North Central London) ama haddii aad jeelaan lahayd in waraaqdan laguu turjumo la xiriir:
nclccg.fertilitydevelopment@nhs.net

Si desea obtener más información sobre la revisión de las políticas de fertilidad del centro norte de Londres o si desea este folleto traducido, póngase en contacto con:
nclccg.fertility-development@nhs.net

Kuzey Merkez Londra Doğurganlık Politikaları İncelemesi hakkında daha fazla bilgi almayı veya bu broşürün tercüme edilmesini isterseniz, şu adres üzerinden iletişime geçin:
nclccg.fertilitydevelopment@nhs.net

W celu uzyskania dodatkowych informacji na temat przeglądu polityki North Central London w zakresie płodności lub w celu przetłumaczenia niniejszej ulotki prosimy o kontakt:
nclccg.fertility-development@nhs.net