

Our Ref: FOI ID 37719

9 June 2017

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**NHS Southport & Formby CCG**

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Dear Mr Melson

### **Re: Freedom of Information Request**

Please find below the response to your recent Freedom of Information request regarding IVF treatment services within NHS Southport and Formby CCG.

Request/**Response**:

1. According to your current IVF treatment policy:
  - a. How many cycles of IVF do you offer to eligible patients?
  - b. Do you fund a full cycle of IVF, as defined by NICE, which includes replacement of all frozen embryos? If not how many frozen embryo transfers do you fund?
  - c. What is your upper and lower age limit that female patients must meet in order to qualify for treatment?
  - d. Do you fund one full cycle of IVF for women aged 40-42 in line with the NICE guidance?
  - e. Do you have an age criterion that male patients must meet in order to qualify for treatment? If so, please state what the criteria is.
  - f. How long do couples need to be trying to conceive before becoming eligible for treatment?
  - g. What eligibility criteria do you apply in relation to existing children that either one or both partners may have?
  - h. What policy is in place (if any) for the use of Single Embryo Transfer?
  - i. Do you fund fertility treatment for same sex couples, and if so what eligibility criteria do they have to fulfil?

[Please see the link below](#)

<http://www.southportandformbyccg.nhs.uk/media/1215/final-southport-formby-ccg-commissioning-policy-13052015.pdf>

2. What is the average cost of a cycle of an IVF cycle funded by the CCG and what does that include?

[Please see Appendix 1 and 2](#)

3. What providers does the CCG contract with to provide IVF services?

- [Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust](#)
- [St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust](#)

4. Is the assisted conception policy available on the CCG's website? If so please provide a link to the policy.

Please see the link below

<http://www.southportandformbyccg.nhs.uk/media/1214/final-infertility-policy-27082015-sfccg.pdf>

5. In the last 12 months, how many patients have applied for fertility funding (both successfully and unsuccessfully) through an Individual Funding Request?

Treatment	Approved	Declined	Grand Total
IVF	0	7	7
Sperm Freeze and Store	1	0	1
Sperm Storage	0	1	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>

Should you require any further information, clarification regarding this response or do not feel that your request has been answered as you would expect, please contact us to discuss.

We also wish to take this opportunity to inform you that a formal complaints and internal review process is available, which will be managed by a FOI Appeals Officer.

This can be formally requested and must be done within a reasonable period of time (3 calendar months) from the date this response was issued.

Where you are not satisfied with the response to a request for information that falls within the Environmental Information Regulations you should make a representation for a review to FOI Appeals Officer, [southportandformbyccg.foi@nhs.net](mailto:southportandformbyccg.foi@nhs.net) within 40 days of receipt of the response.

If you are not satisfied with our review under the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at;

ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF  
[www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)



**Southport and Formby**  
Clinical Commissioning Group

Should you need any further clarification or assistance please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Fiona Taylor'.

Fiona Taylor  
**Chief Officer**  
**NHS Southport & Formby CCG**