

Our Ref: 66993

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NHS Southport & Formby CCG

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Re: Freedom of Information Request

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

Request/Response:

1. What is the criteria for moving IVF funding to a new NHS based clinic? (Not private)

There are no specific criteria related to moving as long as the criteria for eligibility for accessing fertility treatment are met. Patients generally stay with the provider they were referred to as cycles continue under the initial referral.

2. What fertility clinics are available under the South Sefton CCG (Southport and Formby CCG)?

Our main contracted provider is Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust. In accessing fertility treatment patients can choose from providers available on NHS Choices.

3. What's the step by step detailed process from start to finish regarding moving fertility clinics if you have funding?

NHS Southport and Formby CCG would encourage patients to discuss with their current provider reasons for moving prior to contacting their GP to request the referral to another clinic.

4. At any point if any when moving clinics are you without a clinic (transfer period)?

There may be a point when you are no longer under the care of a clinic. Each cycle of treatment (ovary stimulation, egg harvesting, fertilisation and implantation) is a separate episode of care and during the intervening period on going care is not usually necessary.

5. What are your policies regarding moving fertility clinics within an NHS hospital to another fertility clinic with an NHS hospital?

[See question 1](#)

6. What are your policies regarding moving NHS hospitals if you are unhappy with the level of patient care including discrimination?

NHS Southport and Formby CCG would encourage anyone who is unhappy with the care they are receiving or have received to raise a complaint through the formal complaints process, either direct with the hospital treating them or via the CCG as the commissioner.

Please see link to the CCG website for more information –

<https://www.southportandformbyccg.nhs.uk/contacts/make-a-compliment-or-complaint/>

7. What are your policies regarding patients and lack of duty of care from the fertility clinic and the NHS hospital the clinic resides in?

NHS South Sefton CCG would encourage anyone who is unhappy with the care they are receiving or have received to raise a complaint through the formal complaints process, either direct with the hospital treating them or via the CCG as the commissioner.

Please see link to the CCG website for more information –

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8. When applying to changing fertility clinic/hospital regarding my funding would I be without treatment for a certain period of time due to decisions of the transfer from the CCG?

If the patient is eligible for treatment under the current fertility policy then the CCG does not need to re-authorise treatment at another provider. If the treatment was authorised via an individual exceptional funding request then the criteria on which funding was approved would need to continue to be met.

9. What rights do I have if I was never offered a choice in choosing which fertility clinic I would like to have my treatment?

In the initial discussion with either your GP or a consultant who was treating you, you should have been offered choice of provider. The CCG would be happy to explore further anyone who feels this was not the case.