

Our Ref: 67298

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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 fertility treatment within NHS Southport and Formby CCG.

Request/Response:

1. Whether your clinic or third-party provider has ever followed the guidance in Section 8 of the HFEA Code of Practice and conducted a welfare of the child assessment prior to providing treatment that is not regulated by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 but that falls within the definition of 'treatment services' for the purpose of the Act (i.e. treatments falling into in column B above)?
2. If your centre or third-party provider has conducted welfare assessments in such cases in the past five years, please can you confirm:
 - i) How many assessments were carried out?
 - ii) What treatment(s) the welfare assessment was conducted in respect of?
 - iii) How did the clinic or third-party provider determine what particular treatment(s) the welfare assessment should apply to? Please outline any guiding principles/protocols considered.
 - iv) Whether any, and if so, how many prospective patient(s) were refused treatment (of the kind in Column B) on welfare of the child grounds?
 - v) For what reason(s) (in general terms) were these individuals refused treatment on welfare of the child grounds?
3. In respect of treatment services regulated by the HFE Acts (i.e. treatments falling into column A including IVF/AI etc.), in the past five years, please can you confirm how many individuals/couples have been refused treatment on the basis of a welfare assessment?
4. For what reason(s) (in general terms) were these individuals/couples refused treatment on welfare of the child grounds?
5. In the event that a welfare of the child assessment raises concerns and it is not immediately clear that the patient(s) should be refused treatment, what procedure does your centre follow to discuss more difficult cases? For example, is the involvement of an ethics committee sought to assist with decision-making?
6. Please confirm whether your centre/third-party provider considers the following factors to be relevant to the welfare of the child assessment (as opposed to, or in addition to, being

medically relevant), and if so, please briefly explain how the centre/third-party provider considers this to be relevant:

- i) The stability or length of the relationship of the couple seeking treatment?
 - ii) The living arrangements of the prospective patient(s)?
 - iii) The financial interdependence of the couple seeking treatment?
 - iv) The smoking status of the prospective patient(s)?
 - v) The prospective patient(s) consumption of alcohol (that is not alcohol abuse)?
 - vi) If funding is provided for single women, the single status of the woman seeking treatment?
7. If you do not hold details in respect of all questions above on behalf of your third-party provider, please can you provide the name and contact email of the third-party provider so that they may be contacted in the alternative?

For question 1-7 NHS Southport and Formby CCG does not hold this information. You may wish to refer your query to;

Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust - FOI@lwh.nhs.uk

Alternatively, the following link will take you direct to their FOI website page;

<https://www.liverpoolwomens.nhs.uk/about-us/foi/>