

FOI Request: IVF Funding, Investigation & Treatment
Our Reference Number: 1314261

- We can provide the total number of requests for funding received, approved and declined by the CCGs (or their predecessor organisation) during the time periods specified.
- We cannot provide details of all patients approved treatment as this would have been dealt with and recorded by the East of England Specialist Commissioning Group. EoE SCG are now hosted by NHS England, specifically the East Anglia Local Area Team. Information on how to submit a FOI to them is available here: <http://www.england.nhs.uk/contact-us/foi/>

1. All detailed funding criteria used for people requiring fertility treatment including drugs IVF and investigations and treatments.

Current policy below:



Fertility_Services_Co
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2. Please provide details of the number of people requiring fertility treatment and the number of those people granted funding for treatment and number of those denied treatment based upon funding and the reasons for these decisions for the period between 01/01/10 - 29/09/13.

Number of patients requesting IVF treatment between 01/01/2010 and 31/3/2013:

South East Essex (Now covered by Castle Point Rochford CCG and Southend CCG)

- Number of patients meeting criteria and approved treatment = 27
- Number of cases declined as not meeting criteria = 22
- Number of patients approved at appeal (considered exceptional cases) = 3
- Number of patients declined at appeal (not considered exceptional cases) = 0
- Number of cases currently on-going = 0

Number of patients requesting IVF treatment from 01/04/2013 to date:

- Number of patients meeting criteria and approved treatment = 5
- Number of cases declined as not meeting criteria = 4
- Number of patients approved at appeal (considered exceptional cases) = 3
- Number of patients declined at appeal (not considered exceptional cases) = 0
- Number of cases currently on-going = 0

3. Please provide details for the above PCTs for the period between 01/01/10 - 29/09/13 of the number of people granted funding / entitled to for fertility treatment who were in receipt of job seekers allowance or any form of sickness benefit prior to or during treatment.

We do not hold this information. We do not record patients who are in receipt of benefits etc.

4. Details of all funding appeals made and their outcomes between 01/01/10 to 29/09/13.

Please see response to question 2.

5. Please detail the circumstances if those appealing (Their age, marital status, parental status and employment status at the time of appeal), their grounds for appeal and the outcome of that appeal by the relevant PCT's

Under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, a public authority does not have to provide information if that information can be considered personal information under the Data Protection Act. We believe that the information you have requested, in addition to the low numbers of patients involved, could render those patients identifiable and will be withholding the information as a result.

However, patients mainly appealed the decision of declined due to reaching the age of 40 years old or that they had a child from a previous relationship. Please see numbers above.

6. Please also provide meeting minutes from those appeal hearings, meetings to discuss the decision and names of those persons making those decisions.

Essex Commissioning Support is part of NHS Central Eastern Commissioning Support Unit.

With regards to minutes of meetings: Under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, a public authority does not have to provide information if that information can be considered personal information under the Data Protection Act. We believe that the information you have requested, in addition to the low numbers of patients involved, could render those patients identifiable and will be withholding the information as a result.

With regards to panel members in PCT days: Under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, a public authority does not have to provide information if that information can be considered personal information under the Data Protection Act. We believe that the information you have requested falls into this category. There is provision to release information where a member of staff is senior or public facing, however as these were employees of the PCT, it is not the place of the CCG to make this decision.

The current IFR Panel Members are as follows:

- Lesley Buckland – LAY Person (Chair)
- Linda Dowse – Executive Nurse (Southend CCG)
- Public Health Consultant (Rotate)

7. Please also state whether they are still in office and which department they now work if they have moved / changed their role.

All previous panel members have now left the trust

8. Please also provide details of any subsequent appeals or investigations against the first appeal decision and those outcomes also.

We are not aware of any subsequent appeals or investigations after the first appeal decision.