



Lincolnshire
Integrated Care Board

Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board

Bridge House
The Point
Lions Way
Sleaford
NG34 8GG

Tel: 01522 573939
Email: licb.office@nhs.net

16 January 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DECISION NOTICE

Dear Requester

FOI Reference Number: 72145

I refer to your email of 13 December 2023 requesting information in relation to fertility services.

I can confirm on behalf of NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) and in accordance with S.1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) that we do hold some of the information that you have requested. A response to each element of your request is detailed below.

1. Who are the ICB's current contracted providers for tertiary level IVF/Fertility Specialist services?

Bourn Hall Clinic
Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Care Fertility
IVI LONDON WIMPOLE LTD
NURTURE Fertility
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust

2. Who are the ICB's current contracted providers for secondary level reproductive medicine/sub fertility services?

The ICB commission a full obstetrics and gynaecology service from all of its main acute providers including:
United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust (ULHT)
North Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust (NLAG)
North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust (NWAFT)

3. Who have held the ICB/CCG's contracted providers for tertiary level IVF/Fertility Specialist services and for what time period/dates since 2012

Nature – 2012 – Current
 Care Sheffield (STH) – 2012 – Current
 Care Nottingham – 2012 – Current
 Oxford Fertility – 2014 – Current
 Care Northampton – 2012 – Current

4. Who are the ICB's/CCGs contracted providers for secondary level reproductive medicine/sub fertility services and for what time period/dates since 2012

Please see response to Question 2

5. When was the last procurement exercise undertaken for IVF/Fertility Specialist services?

2021/22

6. When is it expected the next procurement exercise will be undertaken for IVF/Fertility Specialist services?

Not applicable

7. Is there a fixed tariff for IVF? If so what is this if not what is the tariff per current provider

Locally agreed tariff as set prior to the Procurement exercise
 Please see table below:

| Basis of Contract | Unit of Measurement | £ |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| IVF - Aged 37 and under | Treatment | £3,000.00 |
| IVF - Aged 38 or older | Treatment | £3,400.00 |
| ICSI - Aged 37 and under | Treatment | £3,000.00 |
| ICSI - Aged 38 or older | Treatment | £3,400.00 |
| FER - Aged 37 and under | Treatment | £850.00 |
| FER - Aged 38 or older | Treatment | £850.00 |
| Sperm Storage | | £303.00 |
| Donor Sperm | | £607.00 |
| Donor Egg with IVF | | £2,275.00 |
| Donor Egg with ICSI | | £2,477.00 |
| Cancelled Cycle (payment only made where cycle has been cancelled following drug stimulation and cancelled prior to egg collection) | Cancelled Cycle following drug stimulation and prior to egg collection. | £1,184.00 |
| OPA | | £145.00 |
| Interpreter | | £26.00 |
| 16'17 agreement Luteal Phase support 8 weeks gestation. | clinical pregnancy | £140.00 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Cancelled IVF/ICSI Cycle after egg collection Aged 37 and Under | | £2,800.00 |
| Cancelled IVF/ICSI Cycle after egg collection Aged 38 or older | | £3,200.00 |

8. What volume of activity did the ICB commission for IVF and ICSI services per year from 2012? (use table below)

Please see table below – please note that the data requested is not held prior to 2015 and is only available in financial years so 2023/2024 data is not yet available.

9. What volume of activity did the ICB commission for IUI services per year from 2012? (use table below)

Please see table below – please note that the data requested is not held prior to 2015 and is only available in financial years so 2023/2024 data is not yet available.

*Due to the nature of the information sought, including the sensitivity and low numbers held for this activity, the ICB has engaged section 40 relating to personal data to withhold the information from disclosure “...to the world at large.”

The ICB considers that this information is exempt under Freedom of Information Act 2000, Section 40(2) (personal information) as disclosure of this level of detail could lead to the identification of individuals, which would be in breach of Section 24(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018 and Article 21 of the UK General Data Protection Regulation. Although I cannot confirm the exact figure, I can confirm that the number in each of these categories is fewer than 5.

The FOIA introduces a broader concept of risk of personal identifiable information because its test for deciding whether personal data can be disclosed is whether disclosure to a member of the public would breach the data protection principles. This means that public authorities have to assess whether releasing apparently anonymised data to a member of the public would breach the data protection principles.

This is intended to ensure that public authorities take into account the additional information that a member of the public might have (information on the Web or in news reports, public libraries, court records etc.) that could allow data to be combined to produce information that relates to and identifies a particular individual - and that is therefore personal data.

Low statistical values increase the likelihood of seemingly anonymised information being combined with other information to identify an individual.

10. What volume of egg and or sperm donor services did the ICB commission per year from 2012? (use table below)

This information is not held by the ICB

| Total Commissioned activity | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 /16 | 2016 /17 | 2017 /18 | 2018 /19 | 2019 /20 | 2020 /21 | 2021 /22 | 2022 /23 | 2023 /24 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| IVF | | | | 32 | 44 | 41 | 54 | 28 | 30 | 14 | 22 | |
| ICSI | | | | 50 | 79 | 59 | 65 | 60 | 52 | 68 | 59 | |
| IUI | | | | <5* | <5* | <5* | <5* | <5* | <5* | <5* | <5* | |
| Sperm Donation | This information is not held by the ICB | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Egg Donation | This information is not held by the ICB | | | | | | | | | | | |

How was the above activity split per provider per year from 2012? If this could be provided in the below format per provider

The data requested is not held prior to 2015 and is only available in financial years so 2023/2024 data is not yet available.

The majority of IVF and ICSI activity was undertaken at Nurture Fertility and Care fertility (see tables below). The remainder of the activity was undertaken at the providers detailed in the response above.

Due to the nature of the information sought, including the sensitivity and low numbers held for this activity, the ICB has engaged section 40 relating to personal data to withhold the information from disclosure "...to the world at large."

The ICB considers that this information is exempt under Freedom of Information Act 2000, Section 40(2) (personal information) as disclosure of this level of detail could lead to the identification of individuals, which would be in breach of Section 24(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018 and Article 21 of the UK General Data Protection Regulation. Although I cannot confirm the exact figure, I can confirm that the number in each of these categories is fewer than 5.

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| Provider 1 (Nurture Fertility) | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 /16 | 2016 /17 | 2017 /18 | 2018 /19 | 2019 /20 | 2020 /21 | 2021 /22 | 2022 /23 | 2023/ 24 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| IVF | | | | 19 | 27 | 13 | 22 | 13 | 9 | 3 | 7 | |
| ICSI | | | | 10 | 20 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 3 | 10 | 4 | |
| IUI | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sperm Donation | This information is not held by the ICB | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Egg Donation | This information is not held by the ICB | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Provider 2 (Care Fertility) | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 /16 | 2016 /17 | 2017 /18 | 2018 /19 | 2019 /20 | 2020 /21 | 2021 /22 | 2022 /23 | 2023 /24 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| IVF | | | | 12 | 15 | 25 | 29 | 13 | 13 | 11 | 10 | |
| ICSI | | | | 38 | 54 | 43 | 52 | 40 | 39 | 42 | 40 | |
| IUI | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sperm Donation | This information is not held by the ICB | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Egg Donation | This information is not held by the ICB | | | | | | | | | | | |

I hope that this answers your queries with the information we currently hold, but if I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to

Arden & GEM Greater East Midlands Commissioning Support Unit
 FOI TEAM/Corporate Communications Team
 1st Floor, St John's House
 East Street
 Leicester
 LE1 6NB

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided the ICB.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: telephone 0303 123 1113,
 email icocasework@ico.org.uk and <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

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Yours faithfully

Lindsay Parker
Senior Freedom of Information Officer

***On behalf of
NHS Lincolnshire ICB***