Dear [Name],

Further to your request for information dated 8 June 2016 the information requested is below/attached

I am attaching Kent and Medway CCGs’ Schedule of Policy Statements for Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART)

I can confirm that NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley CCG only holds information on updates to the above policies from 1 April 2014. Please see information regarding the updates below:

**Key changes in April 2014:**
- The duration of unexplained infertility – reduced from 3 years to 2 years
- Removal of the lower age limit
- IUI only available for eligible couples as per policy
- Surgical sperm retrieval for obstructive azoospermia only (one procedure only)
- Ovarian reserve - Women should have an AMH of more than 5.4 pmol/l.
- Smoking - Couples will not be funded if either partner smokes

**There was an interim arrangement for funding oocyte cryopreservation from July 2014** where oocyte cryopreservation was available for fertility preservation for eligible women who are due to receive gonadotoxic treatment.

**March 2015 changes –**

Policies now include:
- Cryopreservation of oocytes will be available for fertility preservation for eligible patients due to receive gonadotoxic treatments
Storage of sperm, embryos and oocytes should be funded for up to ten years after cryopreservation

March 2016 changes –
- Women must start medication with the ART provider before their 40th birthday; women must only be referred to fertility clinics if there is adequate time to complete work up.

All of the other statements included were for clarification which include –
- The NHS in Kent and Medway follow Department of Health (DH) guidance on NHS patients who wish to pay for additional private care (2009) in relation to ART, the principals of which are as follows:
  - The NHS should never subsidise private care with public money, which would breach core NHS principles
  - Patients should never be charged for their NHS care, or be allowed to pay towards an NHS service (except where specific legislation is in place to allow this) as this would contravene the founding principles and legislation of the NHS
  - Patients should not be able to choose to mix different elements of the same treatment between NHS and private care
  - To avoid these risks, there should be as clear a separation as possible between private and NHS care
- The policies listed in this document only apply to couples who are registered with a Kent and Medway GP.
- An abandoned IVF cycle is one where an egg collection procedure has not been undertaken. Once egg collection has commenced, this is considered a complete cycle and will count towards one of the couples’ NHS funded and ‘previous’ cycles.
- Couples will not be funded if either partner smokes tobacco.
- Cryopreservation of supernumerary embryos will be funded for a maximum of two years following each fresh cycle.
- Time lapse systems for embryo incubation and assessment are not funded within the local NHS.
- Adherence compounds in embryo transfer media for assisted reproductive technologies are not funded within the local NHS.

If you have any queries or concerns please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service that you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision you should write to Complaints, NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group 2nd Floor Gravesham Civic Centre Gravesend Kent DA12 1AU or email at dgsccg.complaints@nhs.net

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or review, you may apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally the ICO cannot make a
decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Clinical Commissioning Group. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioners Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 08456 306060 or 01625 54 57 45
www.ico.gov.uk