RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 received on 3 December 2013 by NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group. The information you have requested is listed below together with the response:

1. According to your fertility treatment policy how many cycles of IVF do you offer to eligible patients?

I can confirm NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group does hold the information you have requested. NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group considers this information is exempt under section 21 of the Act as the information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by another route.

The information you have requested can be found in the ‘Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Groups’ Referral and Treatment Criteria’ document. Please use the following link to access this document:

http://www.dartfordgraveshamswanleyccg.nhs.uk/search/?q=kent+and+medway+refferal+treatment

2. Since the CCG was established:
   a) how many people have received a clinical recommendation for IVF treatment?

   NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group does not hold the information you have requested.

   Please refer the request above to the following service provider who may be able to help you:

   East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust: ekh-tr.foi@nhs.net

   b) how many rounds of IVF have you agreed to fund?

   During the period April to September 2013 NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group agreed to fund 39 rounds of IVF treatment.

   c) how many patients have you agreed to fund?

   During the period April to September 2013 NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group agreed to fund IVF treatment for 39 patients.

3. What are your criteria for refusing to fund IVF with regards to:
   a) BMI?
   b) smoking?
c) age?

d) other restrictions?

This information is available via the link provided in response to question 1.

4. Is your policy to refuse to fund IVF treatment if:
   a) the patient has a previous child?
   b) the patient’s partner has a previous child?

This information is available via the link provided in response to question 1.

5. How many patients who meet your above criteria have you refused to fund?

Where patients meet all criteria they are funded for the allowed number of cycles as set out in the ‘Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Groups’ Referral and Treatment Criteria’ document. During the period April to September 2013 all patients who fully met the criteria received funding for IVF treatment.

6a) If you fund a cycle of IVF, does that include funding subsequent frozen embryo transfers if the round is unsuccessful?
6b) If the answer is "no", do you count funding a frozen embryo transfer as a separate cycle?

This information is available via the link provided in response to question 1.

7a) How many patients did you, or your preceding PCT, fund for IVF treatment in each of the last five financial years (2008/9 - 2012/13)?

The following table sets out the NHS funded IVF/ICSI activity by PCT for the financial years 2008/09 – 2011/12:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PCT</th>
<th>2008/09</th>
<th>2009/10</th>
<th>2010/11</th>
<th>2011/12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHS Medway</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHS West Kent</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I can confirm NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group does not hold the information on funding for IVF treatments in the financial year 2012/13.

7b) Of the cohorts of patients funded in each of those years, how many have resulted in live births as a result of the treatment?
I can confirm NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group does hold the information you have requested. NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group considers this information is exempt under section 21 of the Act as the information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by another route.

The information you have requested can be found on the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) website:

http://www.hfea.gov.uk/

8. What is the average cost of an IVF cycle funded by the CCG?

The midpoint cost of an IVF cycle for Kent and Medway is £3,198.

9. When will you next be reviewing your policy on IVF provision?

A careful review of fertility assessment and treatment in Kent and Medway has recently been carried out, after revised clinical guidelines were issued by the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) in February 2013.

The review looked at the recommendations from NICE and the evidence on what is most likely to maximise success for couples without requiring extra funding at a time of tight NHS budgets.

As a result of the review, the eight clinical commissioning groups in Kent and Medway have agreed some changes in access criteria and services. These changes will come into effect from 1 April 2014 and will be published on our website in due course.

Up until 31 March 2014 we do not anticipate any changes in access criteria or in the assisted conception services available to individuals served by Kent and Medway CCGs, and therefore services will continue to be provided in line with current policy.

Any changes to services or eligibility criteria resulting from new policy will not be applied retrospectively.

10. Which MPs are in your CCGs boundaries?

Please find details of Members of Parliament via the link below:

http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/