Our Ref: FOI.13.DGS0147

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 received on 9 December 2013 by NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group. The information you have requested is listed below together with the response:

1. Does your Clinical Commissioning Group currently fund IVF/ICSI treatments for infertile couples? If so, how many cycles of treatment are routinely offered to eligible couples?

I can confirm NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) does hold the information you requested. NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley CCG consider 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:


2. Which fertility clinic(s) can patients funded by your CCG attend for their fertility treatment?

The following fertility clinics offer treatment funded by NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley CCG: South East Fertility Clinic; BMI Chelsfield Park, BMI Chaucer and Chelsea and Westminster.

3. How many patients and cycles of IVF/ICSI has your CCG funded in the first six months of the current financial year (April to September 2013)?

NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley CCG has funded 39 patients and cycles.

4. How many patients have requested funding for IVF/ICSI treatment from the CCG in the first six months of the current financial year (April to September 2013) but have been ineligible?

NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley CCG does not hold information on the numbers of patients who are ineligible. All patients who have been referred during the period April to September 2013 have fully met the criteria and have received funding.

5. How much has the CCG been spent in in the first six months of the current financial year (April to September 2013) on funding IVF/ICSI treatment?
NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley CCG has spent £63,346 for the period requested on funding IVF/ICSI treatment.

6. What is the average waiting time for the patients funded by your CCG (i) between GP referral and initial consultation with a specialist, and (ii) between GP referral and commencing IVF/ICSI treatment?

i) NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley CCG does not hold the information on GP referrals to Specialists in secondary care as this information would be held by each acute hospital trust.

ii) NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley CCG does not hold this information as this will vary patient to patient depending on individual investigations. The Pathway for access to IVF/ICSI treatment is:
   a) GP referral to fertility consultant in secondary care
   b) Secondary care referral for patients who meet the criteria to the specialist fertility clinic

The current waiting time for referral from secondary care to the first appointment with a specialist fertility clinic is 4 weeks.