

Ref: FOI/00376/CMICB
18 May 2023

Dear

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000
Same Sex IVF NHS Funding**

Thank you for your information request indicated in bold below, which has now been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB). I am able to provide you with the following information and responses.

Please note from 01 July 2022, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were disestablished, and their statutory functions and responsibilities inherited by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB.

Your Request:

I'd like to understand what is currently being done in terms of the same sex NHS funding in the Cheshire East area please.

As far as I'm aware this should have been implemented/being implemented as of April 2023 and I'd just like to get some information as to what's currently happening with this and what/ where our first point of call should be to get the NHS funding?

Our Response:

Please find listed below the link to the current *NHS Funded Treatment for Subfertility Policy* for patients registered with a GP Practice in Cheshire East, which details the type of NHS assisted fertility treatment options available as well as the inclusion/exclusion criteria for eligibility:
<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20220803160214/https://www.cheshireccg.nhs.uk/governance/policies/>

Please note that that former CCG assisted fertility policy acknowledges the right of patients to be treated according to the obligations set out in the NHS Constitution and the Human Rights Act, specifically with regard to age and sex discrimination.

Further information regarding the current application of the inherited former CCG commissioning policies in operation across the Cheshire & Merseyside area can be found on our website via the following link:
<https://www.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/about/how-we-work/commissioning-policies/>

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response or do not feel that your request has been answered as you would expect, please contact us to discuss.

We also wish to take this opportunity to inform you that, where you are not satisfied with the response to your request for information, a formal complaints and internal review process is available.

This can be formally requested by emailing foi@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk and must be done within a reasonable time period (3 calendar months) from the date this response was issued.

Where you remain dissatisfied with our review under the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted at;

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk

Should you need any further clarification or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us quoting the above FOI reference.