

IVF and ICSI Routine Funding

CCCG Governing Body 14th March

Longer, healthier lives for
all the people in Croydon



Financial challenges

Over the last four years, Croydon CCG has been redesigning services and delivering efficiencies.

We have achieved over £50m of efficiencies already without withdrawing the provision of services but our finances are still under even greater challenge.

The CCG was put in special measures in 2016. This means we cannot spend more money than we are allocated. We need to find considerable savings of around £36 million to achieve financial balance.



Financial challenges

We have to take difficult decisions to ensure services are in place for the most vulnerable and have the best health outcomes for Croydon residents overall

Last year, Croydon CCG conducted a review of the services it commissions to consider:

- cost effectiveness
- clinical outcomes
- how essential services are to keep people well and save lives



How have we saved money so far?

- Reducing costs of back office and administration
- Re-commissioning services to get better value for money for the NHS
- Strengthening thresholds for existing policies
- Reducing provision



Service changes

A series of changes have been proposed and engaged on:

- Foxley Lane women's service
- Stopping the routine prescribing of:
 - gluten-free products
 - vitamin D for maintenance
 - self-care medication
 - baby milks and specialist infant formulas

Further changes to services will be required over the next couple of years

Clinicians are now proposing other types of healthcare take priority over IVF/ICSI, to keep people healthy and save lives



The proposal

Croydon CCG is proposing to stop the routine provision of IVF. If the service remains in place savings will have to be found elsewhere.

If the proposal to decommission IVF is agreed, it is proposed that a clinician (GP or consultant) will be able to make an Individual Funding Request on behalf of a couple where there are exceptional circumstances. This request will be considered by a local panel of health experts.



What is IVF?

Whilst most women fall pregnant within two years, around 10% of couples are unsuccessful

There is a wide range of factors that contribute to infertility, and three main types of treatment:

- medical treatment
- surgical treatment
- assisted conception

Assisted conception techniques include IVF and ICSI



National guidelines

Best practice guidelines are produced by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). CCGs decide on the level of assisted conception provided

NICE recommends women under 40 are offered three cycles and 40 to 42 year olds one cycle

In London only one CCG offers three cycles of IVF



Croydon CCG's current policy

Patients are offered one cycle of treatment for IVF, without or without ICSI

The service is available to women under 39 years old who have had unexplained infertility for at least three years



Use and effectiveness

In Croydon, about 150 couples use the service every year, with a six month waiting list. 94 couples, on average, of these 150 were new cycles of IVF. The remaining couples were completing an existing cycle.

There are currently around 60 couples on the waiting list

National live birth rates in 2013 vary according to age, from 32.8% for 18-34 year olds to 21.8% for 38 to 39 year olds



IVF in Croydon

The IVF service is commissioned by NHS Croydon CCG

It is delivered by Croydon Health Services NHS Trust

People can choose to use other clinics if this is their preference



Cost

The treatment at Croydon University Hospital is paid for as a block contract - the annual cost of providing IVF is £887,595 (2017-18)

Depending on the number of women treated per annum, the cost varies

Average cost for treatment is around £8,803

In 2015/16 £72,442 was spent on IVF treatment for Croydon registered patients at other hospital trusts



What did we consult on?

Option One

No change. Savings made from other NHS services.

Option Two

Stop routine provision of IVF in Croydon

A GP or clinician will be able to make an Individual Funding Request for patients where there are exceptional clinical circumstances



Ways of consulting

We consulted by:

- Survey – online and paper copies at GP surgeries and at Croydon University Hospital
- Drop in sessions with service users at Croydon Town Hall
- Outreach work, particularly in lower income areas and with groups who are less likely to respond to consultations



How we consulted with local people?

We have consulted with the following groups:

- Current and past patients of Croydon University Hospital IVF clinic
- Patients currently undergoing fertility tests
- Patient forums and patient representatives
- Croydon voluntary and community groups
- Healthwatch Croydon
- Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Croydon Council)

Information is available on our websites www.croydonccg.nhs.uk



IVF/ICSI Consultation – Participants

Participants

- 330 Croydon residents, patients, stakeholders and healthcare professionals were spoken to during the consultation
- 2 x public meetings
- 20+ drop in and outreach sessions at different locations across the borough. 467 written responses to the Consultation survey.

The results of the consultation show that the majority of survey respondents, 77%, opted to maintain the current service as it is.

23%, thought the CCG should stop funding the routine provision of the IVF service



IVF/ICSI Consultation – Main Themes

Formal eight-week consultation from 4 January to 1 March 2017

Main themes from respondents

- IVF would not be affordable privately for many Croydon residents and could the CCG consider shared funding or means testing
- Proposals seemed unfair and in danger of creating a postcode lottery
- Future impact: on couples, mental health services and current service at Croydon University Hospital
- Infertility is a medical condition and should receive treatment as with other medical conditions
- Croydon CCG proposal does not follow NICE guidelines

Exemptions

Majority of respondents felt to make exemptions was unfair. Of those suggested exemptions, most frequently proposed were low income groups or younger age range (25 – 35)



The CCG acknowledges that this is a very difficult decision as it impacts on the parenting ambitions of Croydon couples

However it cannot be taken in isolation from consideration of the need to ensure continued provision of other higher priority services



Governing Body Recommendation

The GB is asked to agree the detailed recommendation at as outlined in the report namely to:

- Consider the feedback from the Consultation
- Discuss and approve the recommendation to cease funding routine funding of Assisted Conception Services
- Consider whether the CCG should specify any eligibility or exceptions
- Consider whether if agreed the decisions should be reviewed on an annual basis in line with other service priorities and CCGs financial position



What would this mean to current patients

People currently on the IVF waiting list or in IVF treatment will not be affected by the changes

If the proposal is accepted by the CCG's Governing Body, the waiting list will close today

