

NHS DORSET CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP
GOVERNING BODY MEETING
CONSULTATION RESULTS TO INFORM THE FUTURE COMMISSIONING
PRACTICE FOR ASSISTED CONCEPTION/FERTILITY SERVICES

Date of the meeting	19/11/2014
Author	C Parsons, Acting Head Review Design and Delivery (West)
Sponsoring Clinician	Dr K Kirkham, Locality Chair for Weymouth and Portland
Purpose of Report	Following formal written consultation on proposed amendments to Assisted Conception/Fertility Policy NHS Dorset CCG is asked to make a decision on the future commissioning practice for this service.
Recommendation	The Governing Body is asked to approve the recommendations of the Clinical Commissioning Committee on the future commissioning practice of Assisted Conception/Fertility services as set out in bold in section 3 of the report.
Stakeholder Engagement	This widespread consultation has sought the views of the Dorset GPs and Dorset population across all protected characteristic
Previous GB / Committee/s, Dates	CCC 31.07.2013 CCC 27.11.2013 CCG 20.11.13 CCG 15.01.14 MR&FH CCP 06.10.2014 CCC 15.10.2014

Monitoring and Assurance Summary

This report links to the following Strategic Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services designed around people • Preventing ill health and reducing inequalities • Sustainable healthcare services • Care closer to home 		
	Yes [e.g. ✓]	Any action required?	
		Yes Detail in report	No
All three Domains of Quality (Safety, Quality, Patient Experience)	✓		✓
Board Assurance Framework Risk Register	✓		✓
Budgetary Impact	✓	✓	
Legal/Regulatory	✓	✓	
People/Staff	✓		✓

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Financial/Value for Money/Sustainability	✓	✓	
Information Management & Technology	✓		✓
Equality Impact Assessment	✓	✓	
Freedom of Information	✓		✓
I confirm that I have considered the implications of this report on each of the matters above, as indicated	✓		

Initials : CP

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In April 2014, in line with the Equality Act (2010 amended 2012) NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) introduced changes to the age limits that women living in Dorset can qualify for assisted conception, including in vitro fertilisation (IVF).
- 1.2 The lower age limit of 30 was removed and the upper age limit was increased from 35 to 39 (with treatment being completed by the woman's 40th birthday) as criteria for referral to assisted conception services. The widening of the age limit for access to treatment means that more couples in Dorset can have fertility treatment. Same sex and heterosexual couples have equal access to the service.
- 1.3 The policy with the above addendum is an interim policy for a year i.e. April 2014 – March 2015.
- 1.4 The CCG Governing Body proposed that from April 2015 these wider age limits continue to be recognised, while the number of full IVF cycles be reduced from two to one. One full cycle of treatment would consist of both one fresh cycle and one frozen cycle, where embryos have been stored during the fresh cycle.
- 1.5 NHS Dorset CCG recognises the finite resources to fund a whole range of health services and treatments and must rationalise service delivery to ensure high quality services that are consistent with safe standards of care and are clinically and financially sustainable.
- 1.6 Widening the age range for access to assisted conception from April 2014 has a financial implication. This would increase significantly with the number of cycles commissioned.
- 1.7 The NICE Guideline 156 (February 2013) is not a statutory requirement however it is acknowledged that service delivery should be aligned to best practice wherever possible, This guideline recommends 3 full cycles of IVF for women aged under 40 years and 1 full cycle of IVF in women aged 40 – 42 years.
- 1.8 NICE quality standard 73 was published in October 2014 this is a concise set of prioritised statements derived from NICE guideline 156 describing high-priority areas for quality care. This quality standard reiterates the recommendations as stated above (Appendix 1).
- 1.9 In conducting a thorough consultation on the future commissioning practice of assisted conception within Dorset, with a focus upon the number of treatment cycles to be commissioned, NHS Dorset CCG has sought to ensure that its commissioning is well informed, evidence led and informed by the views of local people.

2. Report

- 2.1 The consultation commenced in April 2014, all 100 GP Practices in Dorset being sent background information on assisted conception service provision in Dorset.

GP members were asked two key questions about their views regarding the future commissioning of assisted conception service provision for the population of Dorset. 38 practices out of 100 practices responded

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- 1. Should NHS Dorset CCG commission assisted conception/fertility services?
 - * 87% voted yes NHS Dorset should commission this service
 - * 11% voted no
 - * 2% no response
 - 2. How many cycles of assisted conception treatment should be commissioned by NHS Dorset CCG?
 - * 13% voted for no cycles of treatment
 - * 58% voted for 1 cycle of treatment
 - * 26% voted for 2 cycles of treatment
 - * 3% voted for 3 cycles of treatment.
- 2.2 The same background information provided to the GPs was also included within the formal nine week written consultation with the public.
- 2.3 An additional question asked of the general public was should NHS Dorset CCG commission treatment for women aged 40 -42 years
- 2.4 The consultation was open to all Dorset residents, people registered with a Dorset GP and other interested stakeholders for a period of nine weeks, from Monday 16th June through to Friday 15th August 2014.
- 2.5 A thorough audience analysis was carried out, to ensure that a full range of stakeholders, including hard-to-reach or vulnerable groups were given the opportunity to provide their views.
- 2.6 The Market Research Group (MRG) was commissioned to undertake the analysis of the survey findings. MRG is an independent market research agency based within Bournemouth University. The full consultation document is attached as Appendix 2.
- 2.7 There were a total of 229 responses to the consultation that account for 0.04% of the Dorset registered population of age 17+ from a wide spread demographic with representation from all protected characteristics. A summary of the quantitative data is set out below:
- 73% believe that NHS Dorset CCG should commission assisted conception services for the people of Dorset
 - 27% believe that NHS Dorset CCG should not commission assisted conception for the people of Dorset
 - Number of treatments cycles NHS Dorset should commission up to the age of 39:
 - * 0 cycles – 27%
 - * 1 cycle – 16%

- * 2 cycles – 30%

- * 3 cycles – 26%

NB: % are rounded to the nearest whole number

- Should NHS Dorset offer 1 full cycle of treatment to women aged 40 -42 in line with NICE guideline 156?

- * Yes – 44%

- * No – 56%

2.8 When considering the results from these consultations, attention should be given to both the quantitative and qualitative data in equal measure as independently quantitative data does not provide a comprehensive picture (Appendix 2).

2.9 Previous papers presented to the Clinical Commissioning Committee and Governing Body are available as background documents by [following this link](#).

3. Clinical Commissioning Committee Recommendations

3.1 NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Committee determined to recommend the following to the Governing Body for approval:

- Should Dorset CCG commission assisted conception/fertility services?

- * **Recommended for approval**

- How many cycles of assisted conception treatment are to be commissioned – one, two or three cycles?

- * **One cycle recommended for approval**

- Should women aged 40-42 be offered 1 full cycle of assisted conception treatment?

- * **Recommended 1 cycle for approval**

3.2 The CCC also asked for clarification on transition arrangements for those couples already accepted onto the treatment programme. It is therefore **recommended that those couples already accepted onto the treatment programme for assisted conception prior to 31 March 2015 shall continue treatment in line with the NHS Dorset CCG Assisted Conception Interim Policy 2013/14.**

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 NHS Dorset CCG is asked to approve the recommendations of the Clinical Commissioning Committee on the future commissioning practice of Assisted Conception/Fertility services.

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Date : 29.10.2014

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APPENDICES	
Appendix 1	NICE quality standard 73
Appendix 2	Assisted Conception Policy Amendment consultation – outcomes report