

About you

Are you responding as:

A local resident A representative of an organisation (please specify)

A clinician, commissioner or other healthcare professional (please specify)

Would you like to hear about future developments in health services in the borough of Richmond? Yes No

If you would like to be notified of the outcome of this consultation or kept up to date about future developments in health services in the borough of Richmond, please include your email or postal address:

We would be grateful if you could complete the following information about yourself.

Please be assured that this information will not be linked to your responses and healthcare professionals will not receive any information that identifies you personally. These questions are optional and if you would prefer not to answer, then please leave them blank or tick the 'prefer not to answer' option.

Which of the following age groups do you fall into?

16-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65-74 75+ Prefer not to say

Are you:

Male Female Other (please specify) Prefer not to say

Please indicate your sexuality, do you identify as:

Heterosexual Gay woman/lesbian Gay man Bisexual Prefer not to say

Other (please specify)

Please indicate your ethnic origin, are you:

White – British or Irish White – other Black or Black British Asian or Asian British

Mixed Chinese Any other (please specify) Prefer not to say

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Yes No Prefer not to say

Thank you for completing our survey



Seeking your views on proposed changes to

IVF and ICSI



In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) is a technique by which eggs are collected from a woman and fertilised with a man's sperm outside the body.

Intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) is a variation of IVF in which a single sperm is injected into an egg ■



working together –
a healthier Richmond for everyone

Seeking your views

Richmond Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is seeking your views on proposals to change our policy on commissioning two elements of assisted conception services: IVF and ICSI.

Who are we?

NHS Richmond Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is a membership organisation made up of all 28 GP practices in the borough. We are responsible for buying healthcare services for the 216,000 patients who are registered with GP practices in the borough of Richmond. This includes NHS services like emergency care, hospital care, community and mental health services and prescribing medicines.



You can find out more about the CCG at: www.richmondccg.nhs.uk



Follow us on Twitter: [@NHSRichmondCCG](https://twitter.com/NHSRichmondCCG)



Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/RichmondCCG

What is this document about?

During 2016/17 Richmond CCG had to deliver savings of £11m.

Pressures on expenditure will continue to increase in 2017/18 and it's expected that the CCG will need to find at least another £13m of savings to balance its books. This is a significant financial challenge for a CCG with an annual budget of £261m.

These financial pressures are the result of a reduction in the funding Richmond receives from central government, increasing expenditure on hospitals, and continuing healthcare costs increasing (to fund packages of care for people who have significant ongoing health needs.)

The CCG is required by law to live within our means and focus our resources on the greatest health needs of our population to secure the best possible outcomes for local people. That is why we need to reduce our spending in some areas of our health budget.

There is not enough money for us to do everything we would like to for the people of Richmond. We have to prioritise and make difficult decisions to secure the future of local health services for everyone ■

If you would like this document in an alternative format please contact:

ccginvolve@richmond.gov.uk



This consultation runs from

Tuesday 7 February 2017
until Tuesday 4 April 2017

Background

As a clinical commissioning group (CCG) we are faced with a number of challenging decisions when it comes to managing the budget for Richmond.

Along with other CCGs we continually look at access criteria for NHS treatments in light of new clinical evidence, technological change and finances. We are now looking at some elements of assisted conception services.

Given our financial challenges, there is a real need to balance funding for this treatment with all other services and treatment that are needed. As a result we are proposing to make changes to the commissioning of IVF and ICSI.

In December 2016, we launched an engagement exercise called 'Choosing

Wisely for Richmond.' As part of this engagement we asked for people's views on proposals for prescribing gluten free foods, vitamin D, baby milk and self-care medication; supporting patients to be surgery ready and for IVF and ICSI.

As a result of the feedback we received, our governing body agreed to undertake a consultation on proposed changes to the commissioning of IVF and ICSI.

This document outlines the proposed changes, and we want to hear your views ■



What are IVF and ICSI?

While most women fall pregnant within two years, current NICE guidance indicates around 10% of couples are unsuccessful.

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

- medical management (such as drugs for ovulation induction)
- surgical treatment (for example laparoscopy for endometrial ablation)
- assisted conception

Assisted conception is a collective name for treatments designed to lead to conception by means other than sexual intercourse. We are proposing to change the IVF and ICSI elements of fertility treatment. About 100 couples registered with Richmond GPs are given NHS funding for IVF and ICSI every year.

In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) is a technique by which eggs are collected from a woman and fertilised with a man's sperm outside the body.

Intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) is a variation of IVF in which a single sperm is injected into an egg.



NICE Guidance



The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) is an organisation that provides national best practice for the NHS to follow. NICE Clinical Guidelines on infertility were revised in 2013. These guidelines are not statutory but offer best practice for assisting people of reproductive age who are experiencing problems conceiving.

The revised guidelines included several recommendations including:

- Women under 40 who meet certain criteria can be offered 3 full cycles of IVF.
- Women aged between 40 and 42 who meet certain criteria can be offered 1 full cycle of IVF.
- Access to fertility treatment should be after a two year period of infertility with the same partner.

What services does Richmond CCG currently commission for IVF?

While the NICE guidance is recognised as national best practice, it remains for CCGs across England to determine the services they will commission locally.

Full implementation of this guidance is not currently affordable for the NHS in Richmond.

Some changes were made to access criteria for IVF and ICSI in November 2016. Richmond CCG had funded one fresh cycle of IVF and two frozen cycles for women between 23 and 42 years of age. Our current policy states that the patient must be 39 years or younger at the time of application, and if approved treatment should start within 6 months. The CCG funds one fresh cycle of IVF and if this is unsuccessful one frozen cycle will be provided.

Services are commissioned from Kingston Hospital's Assisted Conception Unit, including:

- Assessment
- Drug therapy
- Egg collection and fertilisation
- Embryo culturing and replacement.

Why are we reviewing IVF and ICSI services?

As clinicians, we are faced with difficult decisions in determining the priority areas for funding and staying within the resources we have available. This means reviewing our services not only to determine where financial savings can be achieved, but also making sure the services we do commission are safe, of a high quality and have good clinical outcomes.

Assisted conception is one of a number of services the CCG is reviewing as part of our financial savings plan.

GPs across the borough of Richmond have considered cost effectiveness, clinical outcomes,

and services that are essential to keep people well and to save lives. Clinicians have discussed options for financial savings and are proposing that other types of healthcare should take priority over IVF services given the limited resources available.

In assessing the clinical and cost effectiveness of IVF, evidence indicates this falls rapidly as age increases and female fertility declines.

The Human Fertilisation Embryology Authority publishes evidence of effectiveness of assisted conception; the latest published evidence is set out in the table on page 7 ■

Live birth rate, per cycle started, fresh own eggs, 2012 and 2013

Age	2012	2013
18-34	32.9%	32.8%
35-37	27.3%	29.5%
38-39	20.7%	21.8%
40-42	13.2%	13.7%
43-44	5.4%	4.9%
45+	1.1%	2.0%
All ages	25.9%	26.5%

HfEA (2016) Fertility Treatment in 2014 – Trends and Figures

This means that nationally only one in five women aged over 40 undergoing one cycle of IVF went on to have a baby. The likelihood of having a baby decreased further with age.

What are we proposing?

While we know that the number of people affected by a change in policy would be low we are also aware that infertility is an area of significant concern to some who are affected by it. As part of our review of all commissioned services in Richmond, we are faced with difficult decisions, including considering what level of IVF services should continue to be funded.

We would like to hear your views about the options presented below:

Option 1

No further change to the existing service.

This option would mean that women 39 years or younger, who meet the clinical criteria will continue to be offered one fresh and one frozen cycle of IVF.

If the CCG goes ahead with this option, we will need to look at other areas of healthcare to make the savings we need to make.

Option 2

Change the access criteria for IVF so that it is funded in limited circumstances only.

Access to IVF would be limited to patients who are infertile following cancer treatment, or to prevent transmission of chronic viral infections (such as HIV).

As part of this consultation we are asking you to tell us if there are other specific circumstances we should consider.

How much do these services cost the local NHS?

Richmond CCG currently spends around **£400,000** on IVF and ICSI each year ■



Who would be affected and how would these patients access treatment in the future?

If the CCG decides to further limit funding to IVF and ICSI services, this would mean that couples living in Richmond would be less likely than before to be able to access these services through the NHS.

In exceptional circumstances, an Individual Funding Request could be made from a GP or consultant who thinks a patient would benefit from treatment that is not usually funded. Each request would be reviewed by a panel made up of clinicians and commissioners from Richmond CCG who would then decide whether or not to fund the treatment based on the individual clinical circumstances of each couple.

The application needs to be made on behalf of the patient by a clinician. The key point is the need to demonstrate that there is a clinical exception for the treatment or procedure, meaning the patient should receive treatment which is outside of the CCG's current funding arrangements.

During this consultation period GPs will continue to refer patients to Kingston Hospital's Assisted Conception Unit, for fertility investigations. However should IVF or ICSI be recommended, new patients will not commence that stage of their treatment until the results of this consultation are known, and a decision taken on the access criteria. This pause in starting treatment does not apply to women who, due to the passage of time, would no longer be eligible for treatment because they would exceed the existing age limits.

No change is proposed for couples whose IVF or ICSI treatments are already underway. ■

How will we engage with local people?

The consultation periods runs from Tuesday 7 February until Tuesday 4 April 2017.

We know that the proposals in this document will be important to couples experiencing infertility now or in the future. We are committed to having an open dialogue with as many people as possible, and providing the opportunity for local people to have their say.

We will work with the following groups to make sure this consultation reaches as many local people as possible:

- Current users of IVF and ICSI
- Local community and voluntary organisations
- Targeted groups who may be most affected and seldom heard groups
- Healthwatch Richmond

Information and the questionnaire will be available on our website: www.richmondccg.nhs.uk

Information directing people to our website will be made available through all our GP practices, local pharmacies and community centres.

We are holding a public meeting to ask local people their views:

Monday 27 February, 7.15pm-9pm
The Salon, York House, Twickenham, TW1 3AA

Please register for the event at ccginvolve@richmond.gov.uk

If you are a local group or organisation, you can request a CCG representative to attend your meeting to provide information about the consultation. If you would like to arrange this please contact us on **020 8734 3037** or ccginvolve@richmond.gov.uk ■

What will happen with your views?

Richmond CCG will consider all responses received throughout the consultation at our governing body meeting which will be held in public.

For dates of our governing body meetings please visit our website: www.richmondccg.nhs.uk

If you provide contact details either through the form contained in this document or online via our website, we will write to you to inform you of the outcome of this consultation and next steps.

Questionnaire

Have your say

Please take some time to fill in the survey on our website www.richmondccg.nhs.uk or complete the questions in this document, and post in an envelope addressed to:

FREEPOST RTEC-KCLE-AUAY
NHS Richmond CCG
Civic Centre, 44 York Street
Twickenham TW1 3BZ

The closing date is Tuesday 4 April 2017.

If you have questions or concerns about this consultation process please contact our PALS service on **020 8734 3001**.

If you would like this document in an alternative format please contact ccginvolve@richmond.gov.uk



About our proposals

Having read the consultation document, I understand the reasons the local NHS is proposing to stop funding IVF and ICSI:

Strongly agree Agree Don't know Disagree Strongly disagree

Which option do you think Richmond CCG should choose?

Option 1 – No further change to the existing service.

Option 2 – Change the access criteria for IVF so that it is funded in limited circumstances only.

Option 2 suggested offering IVF And ICSI in limited circumstances (see page 8).
Are there any other exemptions that you think should be considered? Please specify:

Do you have specific concerns about the proposals? Please specify:

Are there any specific actions you can suggest which would help address your concerns?

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about these proposals?