

**Reference:** FOI 23617 GLO 11M

**Subject:** Fertility Preservation Policy

QUESTION	RESPONSE
1. Name of CCG:	Gloucestershire CCG
2. When was your fertility policy last updated?	16 <sup>th</sup> August 2016.
3. Is there a date/year set to review your current fertility policy?	Yes Q4 2018.
4. IF yes, when?	
<p><b>Questions regarding fertility preservation for women:</b></p>	

<p><b>5. Do you provide fertility preservation due to medical conditions/treatments that may impact future fertility to women?</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><b>6. What age range of women do you provide fertility preservation to?</b></p>	<p>Before the woman is 40.</p>
<p><b>7. Do you restrict fertility preservation based on relationship status, BMI, or any other factor (bar need for immediate onset of medical treatment) to such women?</b></p>	<p>Gloucestershire CCG can confirm that it does hold this information, but are exempting it under Section 21 Freedom of Information Act 2000 as it is reasonably accessible by other means (<a href="https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1203/information-reasonably-accessible-to-the-applicant-by-other-means-sec21.pdf">https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1203/information-reasonably-accessible-to-the-applicant-by-other-means-sec21.pdf</a>). This is an absolute exemption.</p> <p>I have provided you with a link to a website which will provide you with this information:</p> <p>Policy can be seen here <a href="https://g-care.glos.nhs.uk/ifr/24">https://g-care.glos.nhs.uk/ifr/24</a></p>
<p><b>8. What fertility preservation options do you offer for women? (please list all offered from egg storage, embryo storage, laparoscopy)</b></p>	<p>Women can have oocytes (eggs), embryos (fertilised eggs) stored.</p>
<p><b>9. If medical advice and time allows, do you enable women to undergo multiple cycles of ovarian stimulation to store multiple batches of eggs/embryos?</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p>

<b>10. If yes to above, is there a limit to number of cycles?</b>	Up to 3.
<b>11. If egg storage is offered, where and by whom are the eggs stored?</b>	Gloucestershire CCG has a contract with Oxford Fertility who provides the storage facility.
<b>12. If embryo storage is offered, where and by whom are the embryos stored?</b>	Gloucestershire CCG has a contract with Oxford Fertility who provides the storage facility.
<b>13. Is egg storage funded by the CCG?</b>	Yes.
<b>14. How long is egg storage for such women fully funded for by your CCG?</b>	10 years.
<b>15. Do you cease funding egg storage for any other reason than this time period expiring (for example, stopping funding for storage when a woman reaches a certain age). Please list these other reasons to stop funding storage.</b>	No.
<b>16. Once the CCG stops funding egg storage, can the woman pay for storage themselves, privately?</b>	Yes, this is assessed on an individual basis.

<p><b>17. If yes, how much per year is this cost?</b></p>	<p>Gloucestershire CCG does not hold this information; this would be determined by the Provider.</p>
<p><b>18. Is this the full cost of the storage, or is this subsidised in part by the CCG?</b></p>	<p>Gloucestershire CCG would not subsidise storage after the set period.</p>
<p><b>19. Is this cost decided by the CCG? If no, who sets the tariff? Please inform who sets the cost, even if the actual cost is unknown.</b></p>	<p>This would be set by Oxford Fertility.</p>
<p><b>20. How is the cost determined? Please include factors considered.</b></p>	<p>See answer at Q19.</p>
<p><b>21. Are there any restrictions on storage length in this situation?</b></p>	<p>Each case would be determined on an individual basis.</p>
<p><b>22. If embryo storage is offered, where and by whom are the embryos stored?</b></p>	<p>See answer at Q12.</p>
<p><b>23. How long is embryo storage for such women funded for by your CCG?</b></p>	<p>Gloucestershire CCG funds egg/embryo storage for 10 years. After this time the Provider and patient determine on an individual basis whether to continue storage and associated funding.</p>

<p><b>24. Do you cease funding embryo storage for any other reason than this time period expiring (for example, stopping funding for storage when a women reaches a certain age). Please list these other reasons to stop funding storage.</b></p>	<p>No.</p>
<p><b>25. Once the CCG stops funding embryo storage, can the woman pay for storage themselves, privately?</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><b>26. If yes, how much per year is this cost?</b></p>	<p>Gloucestershire CCG does not hold this information; this would be set by the Provider.</p>
<p><b>27. Is this the full cost of the storage, or is this subsidised in part by the CCG?</b></p>	<p>See answer to Q18.</p>
<p><b>28. Is this cost decided by the CCG? If no, who sets the tariff? Please inform who sets the cost, even if the actual cost is unknown.</b></p>	<p>See answer to Q19.</p>
<p><b>29. How is the cost determined? Please include factors considered.</b></p>	<p>See answer to Q19.</p>
<p><b>30. Are there any restrictions on storage length in this situation?</b></p>	<p>Gloucestershire CCG can confirm that it does hold this information, but are exempting it under Section 21 Freedom of Information Act 2000 as it is reasonably accessible by other means (<a href="https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1203/information-reasonably-accessible-to-the-applicant-by-other-means-sec21.pdf">https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1203/information-reasonably-accessible-to-the-applicant-by-other-means-sec21.pdf</a>). This is</p>

	<p>an absolute exemption.</p> <p>I have provided you with a link to our website which will provide you with this information:</p> <p><a href="https://www.gloucestershireccg.nhs.uk/about-us/funding-treatment/interventions-not-normally-funded/effective-clinical-commissioning-policy-list/">https://www.gloucestershireccg.nhs.uk/about-us/funding-treatment/interventions-not-normally-funded/effective-clinical-commissioning-policy-list/</a></p>
<p><b>31. Sometimes, medical treatment means a woman receives treatment that affects fertility (such as chemotherapy) followed by further treatment for that condition (such as tamoxifen to prevent recurrence), during this hormonal therapy women should not get pregnant. Do your policies account for such events? If so, how?</b></p>	<p>The management of the patient would be co-ordinated between the fertility specialist and the managing clinical team. It is not explicitly addressed in our policy.</p>
<p><b>32. According to your policies, should counselling always be offered for fertility preservation, even if timelines are tight?</b></p>	<p>Counselling is part of the specialist fertility unit responsibilities.</p>
<p><b>33. Do you have procedures to allow for emergency fertility counselling if there is limited time? If yes, what are they?</b></p>	<p>See answer to Q32.</p>
<p><b>34. Do your guidelines include informing female patients of the cost of their chosen fertility preservation method</b></p>	<p>No.</p>
<p><b>35. To confirm, should female patients always be told at the time of their decision the future cost of their chosen fertility preservation method, according to the CCGs guidelines?</b></p>	<p>No.</p>

<p><b>36. What action is taken if women are not told of the full future potential cost?</b></p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<p><b>Questions regarding fertility preservation for men:</b></p>	
<p><b>37. Do you provide fertility preservation due to medical conditions/treatments that may impact future fertility to men?</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><b>38. What age range of men do you provide fertility preservation to?</b></p>	<p>There is no age range for men.</p>
<p><b>39. Do you restrict fertility preservation based on relationship status, BMI, or any other factor (bar need for immediate onset of medical treatment) to such men?</b></p>	<p>See answer to Q7.</p>
<p><b>40. What fertility preservation options do you offer for men? (please list all offered)</b></p>	<p>Gloucestershire CCG can confirm that it does hold this information, but are exempting it under Section 21 Freedom of Information Act 2000 as it is reasonably accessible by other means (<a href="https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1203/information-reasonably-accessible-to-the-applicant-by-other-means-sec21.pdf">https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1203/information-reasonably-accessible-to-the-applicant-by-other-means-sec21.pdf</a>). This is an absolute exemption.</p> <p>I have provided you with a link to our website which will provide you with this information:</p>

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<b>Sperm Banking:</b>	
<b>41. If medical advice and time allows, do you enable men to provide multiple batches of sperm for freezing</b>	Yes
<b>42. If yes to above, is there a limit to number of cycles?</b>	Using a batching technique, up to 3 cycles of sperm collection.
<b>43. If sperm banking is offered, where and by whom is the sperm stored?</b>	Oxford Fertility.
<b>44. Is sperm banking funded by the CCG?</b>	Yes.
<b>45. How long is sperm banking for such women fully funded for by your CCG?</b>	10 years for eligible couples.

<p><b>46. Is the cost 'by batch' or is it one cost for all sperm, if several deposits are allowed to be stored.</b></p>	<p>Gloucestershire CCG does not hold this information.</p>
<p><b>47. Do you cease funding sperm storage for any other reason than this time period expiring (for example, stopping funding for storage when a woman reaches a certain age). Please list these other reasons to stop funding storage.</b></p>	<p>No.</p>
<p><b>48. Once the CCG stops funding sperm storage, can the man pay for storage themselves?</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><b>49. If yes, how much per year is this cost?</b></p>	<p>See answer to Q19.</p>
<p><b>50. Is this the full cost of the storage, or is this subsidised in part by the CCG?</b></p>	<p>See answer to Q18.</p>
<p><b>51. Is this cost decided by the CCG? If no, who sets the tariff? Please inform who sets the cost, even if the actual cost is unknown.</b></p>	<p>See answer to Q19.</p>
<p><b>52. How is the cost determined? Please include factors considered.</b></p>	<p>See answer to Q19.</p>

<p><b>53. Are there any restrictions on storage length in this situation?</b></p>	<p>Each case would be considered on an individual basis.</p>
<p><b>IVF or Embryo freezing when a man's fertility is affected:</b></p>	
<p><b>54. If medical advice and time allows, do you enable a couple, where the man is to undergo treatment that may impede his fertility, to undergo IVF, or embryo freezing prior to the man's treatment?</b></p>	<p>Yes, if they meet the criteria for access.</p>
<p><b>55. If IVF is offered to a couple in this situation, up to how many rounds would be offered (were medical advice that as many rounds as possible were allowed)</b></p>	<p>Up to 3 cycles.</p>
<p><b>56. If embryo freezing, with 'fresh' sperm is allowed is the embryo storage funded by the CCG?</b></p>	<p>Gloucestershire CCG funds egg /embryo storage for 10 years. After this time the Provider and patient determine on an individual basis whether to continue storage and associated funding.</p>
<p><b>57. How long is embryo storage for such men fully funded for by your CCG?</b></p>	<p>10 years.</p>
<p><b>58. Do you cease funding embryo storage for any other reason than this time period expiring (for example, stopping funding for storage when a man reaches a certain age or the female partner). Please list these other reasons to stop funding storage.</b></p>	<p>No.</p>

<p><b>59. Once the CCG stops funding embryo storage using 'fresh' sperm, can the man pay for storage themselves?</b></p>	<p>Gloucestershire CCG funds egg /embryo storage for 10 years. After this time the Provider and patient determine on an individual basis whether to continue storage and the associated funding.</p>
<p><b>60. If yes, how much per year is this cost?</b></p>	<p>If this was outside of the 10 years funded by the CCG then the Patient and Provider would determine the price.</p>
<p><b>61. Is this the full cost of the storage, or is this subsidised in part by the CCG?</b></p>	<p>Gloucestershire CCG would not fund storage over the 10 years set out in the policy.</p>
<p><b>62. Is this cost decided by the CCG? If no, who sets the tariff? Please inform who sets the cost, even if the actual cost is unknown.</b></p>	<p>See answer to Q19.</p>
<p><b>63. How is the cost determined? Please include factors considered.</b></p>	<p>See answer to Q19.</p>
<p><b>64. Are there any restrictions on storage length in this situation?</b></p>	<p>All cases to extend storage are considered on an individual basis by the Provider.</p>
<p><b>65. If embryo storage is offered, where and by whom are the embryos stored?</b></p>	<p>See answer to Q12.</p>

<p><b>66. How long is embryo storage for such couples funded for by your CCG?</b></p>	<p>Gloucestershire CCG funds egg /embryo storage for 10 years. After this time the Provider and patient determine on an individual basis whether to continue storage and associated funding.</p>
<p><b>67. Is this the full cost of the storage, or is this subsidised in part by the CCG?</b></p>	<p>Full cost is covered.</p>
<p><b>68. Is this cost decided by the CCG? If no, who sets the tariff? Please inform who sets the cost, even if the actual cost is unknown.</b></p>	<p>The Provider sets the tariff.</p>
<p><b>69. According to your policies, should counselling always be offered to men for fertility preservation, even if timelines are tight?</b></p>	<p>Counselling is part of the specialist fertility unit responsibilities.</p>
<p><b>70. Do you have procedures to allow for emergency fertility counselling for men if there is limited time? If yes, what are they?</b></p>	<p>Counselling is part of the specialist fertility unit responsibilities.</p>
<p><b>71. Do your guidelines include informing male patients of the cost of their chosen fertility preservation method?</b></p>	<p>No.</p>
<p><b>72. To confirm, should male patients always be told at the time of their decision the future cost of their chosen fertility preservation method, according to the CCGs guidelines?</b></p>	<p>No.</p>

<b>73. What action is taken if men are not told of the full future potential cost?</b>	Not applicable.
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***The information provided in this response is accurate as of 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017, and has been authorised for release by Mark Walkingshaw, Deputy Accountable Officer/Director of Commissioning for NHS Gloucestershire CCG.***