

Wednesday 4 January 2017

P R E S S R E L E A S E

NHS in Croydon seeks views on future of IVF treatment

Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) wants local people to have their say about the local NHS's proposal to stop the routine provision of some elements of the assisted conception services for couples who have trouble conceiving naturally: In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) and Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI).

Today, the CCG is launching a public consultation to ask people what they think about these proposals in light of the financial pressures the local NHS is facing. Croydon CCG needs to make savings of almost £30 million next financial year, which is around 6% of the commissioning budget for local health services of £482.3 million.

Typically, the CCG funds 150 cycles of IVF each year at a cost of over £800,000 to the local NHS. Croydon CCG currently offers one cycle of IVF to couples who meet the national criteria, whilst national guidance is to offer three cycles. Croydon CCG is now in a financial position where it is proposing this is reduced to no cycles.

Dr Tony Brzezicki, Clinical Chair of Croydon CCG, said: "Croydon CCG is facing our toughest financial challenge yet. We need to spend the money we have wisely as there isn't enough money to keep funding everything we fund now.

"We need to focus our limited resources where we can have the biggest impact on people's health and well-being. We are proposing to stop the routine funding of IVF. No decisions have been made, but we need to consider how we focus our limited resources on the greatest health needs of our population to make sure we can secure the best possible health outcomes for local people.

"We know that these proposals will affect a limited number of couples, but that impact to those couples has the potential to be great. We need to make sure that we understand and consider the views and needs of the people who may need these services in the future, and we will be working with local community and voluntary groups over the coming weeks to gather views to help us make this decision."

The CCG is proposing that we stop routine IVF. Where there are exceptional clinical circumstances a GP or consultant could still make an application on behalf of a couple to the Individual Funding Request Panel.

Croydon CCG is keen to hear from local people and the consultation will run from Wednesday 4 January to Wednesday 1 March 2017.

A public meeting to discuss these proposals will be held at 6pm to 8pm on Tuesday 24 January 2017, and you can register at www.croydonccg.nhs.uk.

NHS Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group will consider the feedback from local people at a meeting in public of their Governing Body on Tuesday 14 March 2017.

Croydon CCG is also currently asking local people their views on changes to Foxley Lane Women's Service and some prescribing Initiatives. The final deadline to have your say on both of these areas is this Friday 6 January 2017.

To read the proposals and to have your say please go to www.croydonccg.nhs.uk

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