

Longer, healthier lives for
all the people in Croydon

Seeking your views on

IVF and ICSI



Seeking your views

Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group 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 Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is a membership organisation made up of all 57 GP practices in the borough. We are responsible for buying the healthcare for 400,000 registered with GPs in Croydon, London's second biggest borough.

This includes NHS services like emergency care, hospital care, community and mental health services, and prescribing medicines.



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

- ▶ getinvolved@croydonccg.nhs.uk
- ▶ 020 3668 1384

Consultation from:

Wednesday 4 January 2017 to
Wednesday 1 March 2017

Financial pressures on the NHS in Croydon

In July 2016, Croydon CCG was put in financial special measures by NHS England. Croydon CCG is required to make £5.7 million savings on top of our existing plans to save £12.7 million this year. In total, this is just under 4% of the CCG's total commissioning budget of £475.4 million for 2016/17.

For 2017/18 we will need to make savings of a further £29.4 million, which is around 6% of our commissioning budget of £482.3 million.

This leaves the local NHS with a substantial financial challenge.

We must live within our means and focus our resources on the greatest health needs of our population to

make sure we can secure the best possible health outcomes for local people. We must make sure that every pound we spend is focused on that will have the biggest impact on the health of local people.

There is not enough money for us to do everything we want for the people of Croydon. This is why we need to reduce our spending in some areas of our health budget.

We have to prioritise and make tough decisions to secure the future of local health services for everyone.



Our Proposals

As healthcare professionals we are faced with a number of challenging decisions when it comes to managing the NHS budget for Croydon. Throughout the NHS in England, the rising cost of health care coupled with an increase in demand for these services, has put immense pressure on NHS budgets.

As with many other CCGs across the country, we have looked at some elements of assisted conception services as an area to potentially reduce costs.

IVF is an expensive treatment, which can often prove unsuccessful. Given our finite resources, there is a real need to balance funding for this treatment with all other services and treatments across the borough.

We are proposing to change the commissioning of IVF and ICSI. This document outlines the proposed changes and we want to hear your views.

What is IVF?

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. Assisted conception techniques include IVF and ICSI. About 150 couples registered with Croydon GPs are given NHS funding for IVF and ICSI every year.

We are only proposing to change the IVF and ICSI elements of fertility treatment.

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. Usually one or two resulting embryos are then transferred to the womb. If one of them attaches successfully, it results in a pregnancy. One full cycle of IVF with or without ICSI, should comprise of one episode of ovarian stimulation, egg retrieval, fertilisation and the transfer of any resultant fresh or frozen embryo(s).

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 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 do we 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 affordable for the NHS in Croydon.

Croydon CCG currently funds one cycle of IVF with or without ICSI, for women under 39 years who have had unexplained infertility for at least three years.

Croydon CCG currently commissions services from Croydon Health Services NHS Trust that provides assisted conception services including:

- ▶ Assessment
- ▶ Drug therapy
- ▶ Egg collection and fertilization
- ▶ 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 looking across 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.

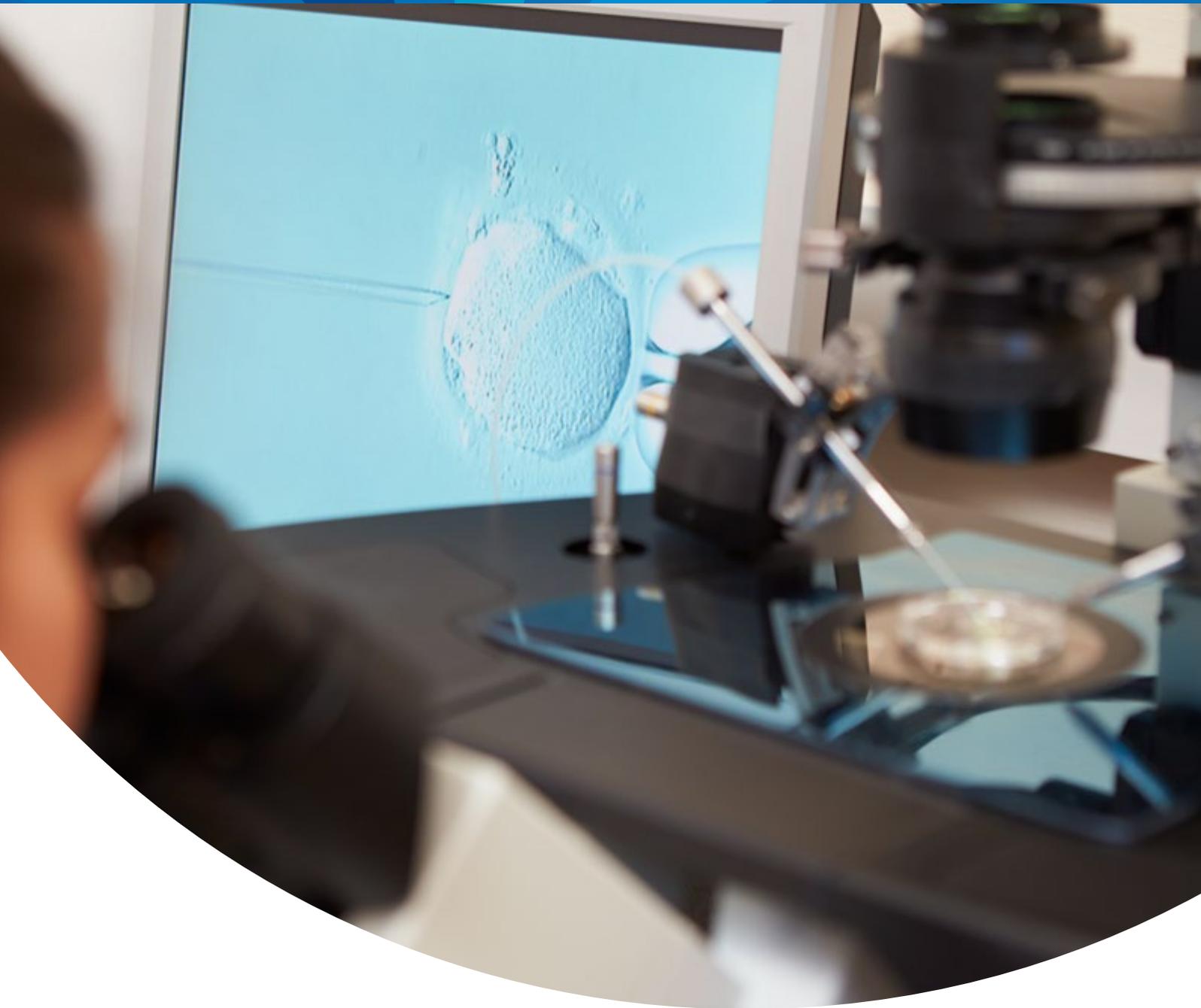
Assisted conception is one of a number of services the CCG has reviewed as part of our financial savings plan.

GPs across Croydon have considered cost effectiveness, clinical outcomes, and services that are essential to keep people well and to save lives. Clinical leaders 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 overleaf.



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

Age	Year of treatment	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%

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?

We know that infertility is a very difficult issue for those affected by it. As part of our review of all commissioned services in Croydon, we are faced with hard decisions, including considering whether IVF services should continue to be funded.

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

Option 1 No change to the existing service

This option would mean women under 39 who meet the clinical criteria will continue to be offered one cycle of IVF on the NHS as outlined in our current policy.

If the CCG went ahead with this option, we would need to look to other areas of healthcare in order to make the savings we need to make.

Option 2 Decommission IVF and ICSI services

The CCG would no longer fund IVF or ICSI services on the NHS for Croydon residents.



How much do these services cost the local NHS?

Croydon CCG currently spends around £836,000 on IVF and ICSI each year. This funding provides around 150 couples each year with one cycle of IVF or ICSI treatment.

This equates to around £5,575 per cycle of IVF.

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

If the CCG decided to stop funding IVF and ICSI services this would mean that couples living in Croydon would no longer be able to routinely access these services through the NHS.

Local couples would need to fund their own IVF treatment privately if they wished to do so and if they were able to financially.

This option would however still allow people experiencing fertility problems, at any age in the reproductive range, to consult their GP and where appropriate, be referred to a specialist for further investigation and other necessary medical or surgical treatments.

In exceptional circumstances, an application from a GP or consultant could be made to the Individual Funding Request panel.

An Individual Funding Request is where a doctor thinks a patient would benefit from a treatment that is not usually funded for others. Each request would be reviewed by a panel made up of clinicians and commissioners from Croydon CCG who would then decide whether or not to fund the treatment based on the individual clinical circumstances of each couple.

If the CCG takes this option forward, only people currently receiving IVF treatment or on the waiting list for a IVF procedure will continue their current course of treatment.

There are currently under 50 couples on the waiting list for IVF and ICSI.

If following the consultation, the CCG made the decision to stop commissioning IVF and ICSI services the waiting list would then close. Those on the waiting list at that point would continue to be treated.



How will we engage with local people?

The consultation period is from **Wednesday 4 January to Wednesday 1 March 2017**.

We know that the proposals in this document have the potential to significantly impact couples experiencing infertility now and in the future. We are committed to having an open dialogue with as many people as possible, and providing the opportunity for everyone in Croydon to have their say.

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

- ▶ Healthwatch Croydon
- ▶ Current users of IVF and ICSI
- ▶ Local community and voluntary organisations.

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

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

Tuesday 24 January 2017, 6-8pm

The Community Rooms, Bernard Weatherill House, 8 Mint Walk, Croydon CR0 1EA

Please register for the event on our website at www.croydonccg.nhs.uk

What will happen with your views?

Croydon CCG will consider all responses received throughout the consultation at our Governing Body meeting, which will be held in public.

Tuesday 14 March 2017

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 or complete the questions in this document, and post in an envelope addressed to:

FREEPOST ENGAGEMENT CROYDON CCG

You can read more about these proposals on our website at www.croydonccg.nhs.uk

The closing date is Wednesday 1 March 2017

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 NHS Croydon CCG should choose?

- Option 1** – No change to the existing service
 Option 2 – Decommission IVF and ICSI services

If the CCG does stop funding IVF and ICSI services, are there any exemptions you think should be considered, for example certain groups of people? Please specify

Do you have any 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?

(please continue overleaf)

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 Croydon?

- Yes No

If you would like to be notified of the outcome of this proposal or kept up to date about future developments in Croydon health services please leave us 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 answers and health 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.

Please write in the first part of your postcode eg. CRO1

Which of the following age groups do you fall into?

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

Are you:

- Male Female Prefer not to say

Please indicate your sexuality, do you identify as:

- Heterosexual/ Straight Prefer not to answer
 Homosexual Other (please specify)
 Bisexual
-

Please indicate your ethnic origin, are you:

- White – British or Irish Mixed
 White – other Chinese
 Black or Black British Prefer not to answer
 Asian or Asian British Any other (please write in below)
-