

CONSULTATION RESPONSE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR REVIEW OF PUBLICLY FUNDED FERTILITY SERVICES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

You can respond to the consultation document by e-mail, letter or fax.

Before you submit your response, please read Appendix 1 about the effect of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on the confidentiality of responses to public consultation exercises.

Responses should be sent to:

E-mail: secondary.care@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Written: Secondary Care Directorate
Room 1, Annexe 1
Castle Buildings
Stormont
Belfast BT4 3SQ

Fax: (028) 9052 3302

Responses must be received no later than 13 January 2009

I am responding: as an individual
on behalf of an organisation
(please tick a box)

Name: _____
Job Title: _____
Organisation: _____
Address: _____
Tel: _____
Fax: _____
e-mail: _____

Proposals

Q1. This document contains a number of proposals for the future of publicly funded fertility treatment in Northern Ireland. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals. If you disagree with any of the proposals please provide, in the space provided, detail of your reasons. We would also ask that you provide detail of any additional suggestions you may wish to make.

Proposals relating to access criteria	Y/N
1. Are you content that the qualifying periods for accessing fertility treatment remain unchanged?	
2. Are you content that the age limit for women using their own eggs remains unchanged?	
3. Are you content that the upper age limit for treatment for women using donated eggs should be reduced to 39?	
4. Are you content that there continues to be no age criterion for men?	
5. Are you content that treatment should continue to be restricted to those who have had three or fewer previously unsuccessful treatment cycles, whether publicly or privately funded?	
6. Are you content that treatment should continue to be available to those with children living with them?	
7. Are you content that treatment should continue to be available to those who have undergone voluntary sterilisation at the discretion of the clinician involved?	
8. Are you content that the criterion restricting access to those in a stable relationship should be removed, opening access to treatment to all those with a medical fertility problem regardless of their relationship status?	

Proposal relating to waiting list management	Y/N
<p data-bbox="284 331 1295 533">9. It is recommended that all those on the waiting list should be treated in the order in which they were placed on the list without prioritisation of any one group except for reasons of clinical urgency. Do you agree?</p>	

Proposals relating to extra funding	Y/N
<p data-bbox="284 732 1300 1098">10.The first priority is to reduce waiting times to a maximum of 52 weeks and maintain them at this level. It is proposed that, once this is achieved, the next priority should be an increase in number of cycles - this would start with the provision of a cycle of FET following a stimulated cycle where clinically appropriate. Do you agree with this proposal or would you prefer to see a further reduction in waiting times?</p>	

Equality implications

Q2. Do you think the proposals are likely to have an adverse impact on any of the nine equality groups identified under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998? If yes, please state the group or groups and provide comment on how these adverse impacts could be reduced or alleviated in the proposals

Yes No

Response:

Q3. Are you aware of any evidence, qualitative or quantitative, that the proposals may have an adverse impact on equality of opportunity or on good relations? If yes, please give details and comment on what you think should be added or removed to alleviate the adverse impact.

Yes No

Response:

Q4. Could the proposals better promote equality of opportunity or good relations? If yes, please give details as to how.

Yes

No

Response:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMENTS.

Appendix 1

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – CONFIDENTIALITY OF CONSULTATIONS

The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. **Before** you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or be treated as confidential.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

the Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided

the Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties “in confidence” which is not confidential in nature

acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner’s Office (or see web site at:

<http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/>).