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## Health Scrutiny - Assisted Conception Policy

### 1) PURPOSE OF REPORT:

This report provides an overview of the Assisted Conception Policy for Trafford and an overview of the Greater Manchester (GM) position for Assisted Conception cycles and funding.

### 2) GM Assisted Conception Policy Overview

All GM Localities are required to adhere to a single access policy: the GM Assisted Conception EUR policy. This means that decisions around access to assisted conception treatments – other than the number of cycles offered are taken at a GM rather than locality level.

Assisted conception care is generally commissioned in line with NICE CG156: Fertility problems: Assessments and treatment as outlined in Pg 6-13 of the policy below) which details the qualifying criteria that apply .

Individual treatments are funded by the area with whom the patients GP surgery is registered, with the exception of those treatments where the specified commissioner is NHS England (NHSE)

When treating a couple, it is the GP surgery with whom the female partner is registered. In same sex (female) couple it will be the GP surgery with whom the patients wishing to carry the pregnancy is registered.

(Full policy is below)

### 3) Operating module

On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022, a new operating module was introduced for the GM Individual Funding Requests (IFR) Service.

In summary this now means that GM IFR Service no longer process prior approvals, this is now considered permissible activity, therefore this means that if a clinician deems a patient requesting Assisted Conception meets the policy criteria the clinician can refer for treatment.

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#### 4) Number of Cycles of Assisted Conception funded

Both NHS and privately funded cycles will be considered when determining how many cycles to fund.

**NOTE:** If a woman changes her registered practice to one that comes under a different area which offers a different number of IVF cycles, eligibility will depend on the number of IVF cycles offered by the area where she is currently registered.

The total number of cycles undertaken as listed below added to those funded privately must not exceed 3. Where cycles have been funded privately or by another area, these will be taken into account when determining how many cycles to fund in accordance with the below:

For women aged 39 and under:

**Bolton, Bury, HMR, Manchester, Oldham & Trafford** all commission 1 complete cycle of IVF (and allow a second attempt at a full cycle for a cancelled or abandoned cycles).

**Salford, Stockport & Wigan** all commission 2 cycles (includes abandoned or cancelled cycles).

**Tameside** commissions 3 cycles (includes abandoned or cancelled cycles).

**IVF for women aged 40-42 (i.e. before her 43<sup>rd</sup> birthday) - all areas in Greater Manchester 1 full cycle provided:**

- They have never previously had IVF (including privately) – (For same sex female couples: neither partner has previously had IVF)
- There has been a discussion about the implications of IVF at this age

Their single cycle of IVF can be carried out with donor eggs if one of the following applies:

- total antral follicle count (AFC) of less than or equal to 4
- anti-Müllerian hormone (AMH) of less than or equal to 5.4 pmol/l
- follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) greater than 8.9 IU/l

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## 5) Conclusion

Trafford are now in the majority of localities across England that offer 1 NHS funded cycle for Assisted Conception for those who meet the qualifying criteria for the Assisted Conception process. The majority of localities in Greater Manchester also now only offer funding for 1 cycle of IVF.

It is vital to clarify that all NHS organisations need to consider how they prioritise spending their budget and Assisted Conception is one in a number of treatments and services commissioned in Trafford.

The ICB has the responsibility of supporting the whole population, this means that our priority must be to offer safe, quality NHS healthcare across primary, secondary and specialist services, as well as lifesaving emergency services for the whole of Trafford. We also need to build an infrastructure and provision for a population that are living longer, with some patients of all ages having a greater need for long term NHS support, especially following the pandemic

This means that at the present time, Trafford locality is has agreed to support 1 cycle of IVF. The option to offer financial assistance to those who may require more than a single cycle is also not under consideration at the present time.

It has also been confirmed that GM are planning to standardise the number of Assisted Conception cycles across GM as part of the emerging work programme on Commissioning for Outcomes.