

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Priorities forum statement

Number: 3

Subject: Reversal of sterilisation

Date: May 2015

Date review due: May 2018

GUIDANCE

This guidance concerns procedures for reversal of sterilisation in males and females, including surgical reversal and assisted conception following sterilisation.

The Priorities Forum considers that reversal of sterilisation is a low priority procedure and is unlikely to be funded for people registered with a GP within the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire area.

Trust clinical governance systems should continue to embrace the current (2004) good practice guidelines from the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology **(1)** regarding

- The giving of information and informed consent prior to sterilisation
- Additional care to be taken when counselling groups who may later regret sterilisation
- Ensuring awareness of the lack of NHS funding for reversal of sterilisation

Funding should only be approved in exceptional circumstances. These decisions should be made by Exceptional Treatment Panels, or equivalent groups within the local CCGs. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Priorities forum offers the following guidance to such groups in making decisions.

The following circumstances would, on their own, not generally be considered to be sufficient grounds for NHS funding for reversal of sterilisation: change in relationship, such as divorce; death of a child; death of a partner; or perceived deficiencies of counselling and information at the time of sterilisation, relative to best practice at that time.

Human Rights and Equalities legislation has been considered in the formation of this guidance statement.

¹ Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. "National evidence-based clinical guidelines: Male and Female Sterilisation." January 2004 (revised version of 1999 guideline). <http://www.rcog.org.uk/guidelines.asp?PageID=108&GuidelineID=30>