

Policy Recommendation: Cryopreservation options for patients about to start NHS treatment which might impair their future fertility

Date of issue: April 2018

The committee revisited the July 2012 Policy 135 in light of applications from patients wishing to enter into gender reassignment surgery which would impair future fertility. The previous policy was not consistent with the needs of this group so a new statement was agreed.

The SHIP8 Committee (Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth CCG's) has considered the evidence for the clinical and cost effectiveness of cryopreservation options (sperm, oocytes, embryos and ovarian tissue) for patients about to start NHS treatment which might impair their future fertility. The committee **RECOMMENDS** that:

NHS funding should be available for the retrieval and cryopreservation of sperm from patients who meet the criteria specified by NICE:

“Semen cryopreservation should be considered in conditions that impair fertility or need treatment likely to impair fertility, such as malignancies of the genital tract (for example, testicular cancer and prostate cancer) or systemic malignancies (for example, non-Hodgkin's or Hodgkin's lymphoma, and leukaemia).” (NICE fertility guidance, 2013)

NHS funding should also be available to patients about to undertake NHS funded gender reassignment surgery which would impair their future fertility.

NHS funding should be available for the retrieval and cryopreservation of oocytes from patients who meet the criteria specified by NICE:

“Women of reproductive age (including adolescent girls) who are preparing for medical treatment such as for cancer that is likely to make them infertile if:

- they are well enough to undergo ovarian stimulation and egg collection and
- this will not worsen their condition and
- enough time is available before the start of their cancer treatment.”

NHS funding should also be available to patients about to undertake NHS funded gender reassignment surgery which would impair their future fertility.

NHS funding should be available for the retrieval and cryopreservation of ovarian tissue from patients in circumstances where it is not possible to retrieve oocytes.

NHS funding should be available for the subsequent storage of cryopreserved material for the period of time recommended by NICE.

NHS funding for the subsequent use of cryopreserved material will be subject to the assisted conception eligibility criteria in operation at the time that this use is considered.