

Swindon CCG Assisted Conception Services Eligibility Criteria

1. Residency

Female partner should be registered with a NHS Swindon CCG GP.

2. Definition of Childlessness

Treatments for sub-fertility will be funded if the couple has no living children (including adopted children) from the partnership.

Once accepted for treatment, should a child be adopted or a pregnancy leading to a live birth occur, the couple will no longer be eligible for treatment.

3. Welfare of the Child' requirements

Couples must conform to the 'Welfare of the Child' requirements.

4. Smoking.

Couples must both have been non-smokers for a minimum of 6 months prior to referral for IVF.

5. Female Body Mass Index (BMI)

The woman must have a BMI of between at least 19 and up to and including 30.

6. Reversal of Sterilisation and Treatment Following Reversal

Couples are ineligible if previous sterilisation or vasectomy has taken place (either partner) even if it has been reversed.

7. Previous infertility treatment

Couples who have undergone three or more previous IVF / ICSI cycles either NHS or privately funded, will be ineligible for further NHS funding. Further cycles may be funded to bring the total number of complete IVF cycles to three. The (NHS funded) transfer of a frozen embryo from a previous self-funded cycle will count as the first NHS funded cycle.

8. Donor eggs/embryos or sperm

Donor eggs/embryos or sperm are funded only as part of a course of IUI/IVF treatment for sub-fertility.

9. Duration of Infertility/Waiting Time

Couples will be eligible for fertility treatment following a minimum of three years of unexplained sub-fertility or sooner where there is an identified cause for the fertility problems.

Same sex couples and women not in a relationship will be assessed if insemination on at least 10 non stimulated cycles over a period of three years has failed to lead to pregnancy. NHS funding is not available for access to donor insemination facilities for fertile women. All other criteria apply equally.

10. Age at Time of Treatment

Age of female partner must be between 23 and 39 years. Fertility treatment for a prospective mother must commence no later than 18 weeks before the patients 40th birthday.

Age of male partner less than 55 years.

11. Number of cycles funded

In vitro fertilisation (IVF) with or without intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI)

- Eligible couples requiring IVF, with or without ICSI, will have available to them a maximum of three embryo transfers; **one fresh cycle and two frozen cycles.**
- In order to access NHS funded IVF, with or without ICSI, patients will be required to fulfil all relevant eligibility criteria

One cycle of NHS funded IVF treatment can be either one IVF/ICSI cycle OR three cycles of IUI/donor insemination.

Where a course of treatment is not completed for clinical reasons this treatment cycle will not be counted with regard to the eligibility criteria.

12. Fertility preservation for patients who are to undergo therapy with oncology treatments which are likely to compromise their future fertility

Patients having treatments for cancer who are childless may have NHS funded storage of eggs, sperm or embryos. Funding of storage continues as follows:

- Up to age 39 (in the case of a woman), or age 55 (in the case of a man)
- For a total of 5 years
- Until parenthood occurs naturally

Whichever of these occurs first.