

Policy statement:	Sperm, Embryo or Oocyte Cryopreservation
Status:	Individual Prior Approval

M&SECCGs commission Sperm, Embryo or Oocyte cryopreservation on a restricted basis.

Funding for fertility preservation will be offered to patients who have a disease or a condition requiring urgent medically necessary treatment that has a significant likelihood of making them infertile and those whose medical treatment may compromise fertility.

The following fertility preservation methods will be considered for funding: -

- Sperm retrieval and cryostorage
- Ovarian stimulation. egg collection and either egg or embryo cryostorage

Patients must meet the following criteria:

- Commenced puberty and be aged up to 43 years old.
- Women need to be well enough to undergo ovarian stimulation and egg collection but this should not worsen their condition and sufficient time is available prior to starting treatment.

Embryo or oocyte cryostorage will not be available where a woman:

- Chooses to undergo medical or surgical treatment whose primary purpose is that it will render her infertile, such as sterilisation
- Requests cryostorage for personal lifestyle reasons, such as wishing to delay trying to conceive.

One cycle of egg collection and up to two separate collections of semen will be funded.

Surgical sperm recovery is not funded.

At the time of fertility preservation treatment, patients **do not need** to demonstrate they comply with the criteria below (although where applicable patients must meet criteria in force at the time for subsequent IVF treatment);

- a. be a non-smoker
- b. have a BMI between >19 - <30
- c. have a documented history of unexplained infertility

Fertility preservation treatment must take place prior to the treatment likely to affect fertility.

M&SECCGs will fund storage of embryo, eggs and sperm (whose harvest was funded under this policy)

- until the age of 25 if harvested before 20th birthday
- for 5 years if harvested between her 20th and 38th birthday
- until 43rd birthday if harvested after the age of 38

- six months post a live birth (as a result of either stored material or natural conception)

Patients can choose to fund storage themselves beyond the NHS funded period. If the patient dies whilst their embryos, eggs and sperm are in storage the CCGs will only fund storage 3 months from the date of the person dying. Extended storage beyond this time may be funded privately if applicable.

If the person is already deceased the 3 months commences on 1 August 2018.

NHS Funding for use of stored material for assisted conception in line with patient's CCG policy. Any further costs e.g. use of sperm/oocytes in private fertility treatment or transport to another clinic etc would need to be met by the patient.

Funding for patients not meeting the above criteria will only be granted in clinically exceptional circumstances.

It should be noted that M&SECCGs are not the responsible commissioner for Pre-implantation Genetic Diagnosis and associated IVF/ICSI. This service is commissioned by NHS England.

Specialist fertility services for members of the Armed Forces are commissioned separately by NHS England.