30th September 2015

STATEMENT REGARDING SPECIALIST FERTILITY SERVICES

Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has agreed a further 12 month restriction on funding specialist fertility services, including IVF.

The decision was taken by the CCG’s Governing Body last Thursday (24th September) as part of the annual review of the Service Restriction Policy.

Couples having difficulties conceiving can still consult their GP and, if appropriate, see a local gynaecologist for further investigation.

Treatments such as surgery or ovarian stimulation will continue to be available but specialist fertility services, such as IVF, will not be funded in mid Essex.

The restriction on specialist fertility services was first put in place in September 2014 following public consultation and in response to the financial challenges faced by Mid Essex CCG.

The mid Essex health economy has been recognised as one of the 11 most financially challenged in the country.

Mid Essex CCG needs to make £15.7 million of savings in 2015-2016 to continue towards achieving financial balance by 2017-2018.

Dr Caroline Dollery, Chair of Mid Essex CCG, explains:

“I understand that this decision will be disappointing for some of our local population, especially those who were hoping for a lift on the restriction.

“The decisions we are facing this coming year are not easy. We are constantly striving to ensure that our local communities have access to services they need and this has to be balanced against the money available to us.”

ENDS

Notes to editors

1. Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is the statutory body that commissions healthcare for the populations of the City of Chelmsford and districts of Braintree and Maldon.
2. Treatments offered by a specialist fertility centre include, for example: in vitro fertilisation (IVF); surgical sperm retrieval; donor insemination and sperm, embryo and tissue cryostorage and replacement.

3. For further information and interview bids, please contact Rachel Harkes on 01245 459414 or email rachelharkes@nhs.net

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