



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference North East & North Cumbria
ICB FOI 578

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24 October 2023

By Email

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information – NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB)

Thank you for your request received by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 18 October 2023 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

NENC ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland and Tees Valley (which covers the 5 councils that make it up – Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

Your Request and Our Response

I am emailing to submit a FOI request regarding your current **and previous** fertility treatment (IVF) policies. I am requesting:

1. Any documents or information relating to **decision-making** around current ICB IVF provision – including but not limited to any public/stakeholder consultation, any publicly-available communications on policy changes, any feedback on the policy provided by the public or stakeholder groups, any meeting minutes related to IVF policy decision-making.

The VBCCP Steering Group was formed in 2016 (ToR attached) This group is responsible for development of VBCC Policies.

The latest VBCCP Version 12.3 is attached (page 55 shows the current NENC ICB IVF Policy) (amendments to any policy is in the document history section at the end of the document)

2. Any documents/information relating to **implementation** of the ICB IVF policy – including communications with NHS hospitals and GP services, such as information leaflets provided or any guidance provided.

Any changes to any policy must be reviewed by the VBCCP Steering Group and recommendations made. The updated VBCCP then requires agreement by the ICB Executive Board. Once agreed, an Engagement Document (attached) and the updated VBCCP (attached) is sent to NECS provider Management Leads for dissemination to all providers.

3. Any documents relating to IVF/fertility treatment provision **before** the ICB merger (any documents from: NHS North Tyneside CCG, NHS Northumberland CCG, NHS Newcastle Gateshead CCG (formed by merger in 2015), NHS North Cumbria CCG, NHS Sunderland CCG, NHS South Tyneside CCG, NHS County Durham CCG (formed by merger in 2020), NHS Tees Valley CCG (formed by merger in 2020).

Version 11.1 May22 attached (amendments to any policy is in the document history section at the end of the document)

4. Any information and/or documentation related to how previous CCG IVF policies were merged into one policy for the current ICB.

All policies were merged into one from 2016 onwards.

5. A description any other FOI requests submitted related to fertility care provision in the ICB.

This information is available via the Disclosure Logs on NENC ICB's website here <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/about-us/publications/disclosure-log/>

Therefore, this information is exempt under Section 21 Information Accessible by Other Means.

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the NHS ICB website <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/>.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Senior Governance Manager using the contact details at the top of this letter quoting the appropriate reference number.

If you are not content with the outcome your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner

cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the North of England Commissioning Support Unit.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

www.ico.org.uk

Any information we provide following your request under the Freedom of Information Act will not confer an automatic right for you to re-use that information, for example to publish it. If you wish to re-use the information that we provide and you do not specify this in your initial application for information then you must make a further request for its re-use as per the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 www.legislation.gov.uk . This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours sincerely

Pamela Coxon

Pamela Coxon
Information Governance Officer