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Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_160_26

You asked:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

1 – How many rounds of Intra-uterine insemination (IUI) will your health board fund for a same-sex couple, once they've met NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee's eligibility criteria, as set out under policy CP38?

2 – How many rounds of IUI will your health board fund for a single woman, once they've met NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee's eligibility criteria, as set out under policy CP38?

3 – a) How many rounds of IUI has your health board funded over the last five years – 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022 and 2021? b) How many of these, over the last five years, were for same-sex couples? c) How many of these, over the last five years, were for single women?

Background:

NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee (WHSSC) states that in order for same sex couples to access IVF on the NHS in Wales, they need to show six rounds of unsuccessful Intrauterine Insemination (IUI) to be eligible, as detailed in Specialised Services Commissioning Policy:CP38. That policy, under subsection 3.2.7, states that it's up to each individual health board to decide how many rounds of IUI, if any, can be funded on the NHS, as follows:

"3.2.7 Sub-fertility

Criteria – Sub-fertility must be demonstrated before there can be access to NHS funded IVF treatment. Sub-fertility for heterosexual couples is defined as inability to conceive after 2 years unprotected intercourse or a fertility problem demonstrated at investigation. Sub-fertility for same sex couples/single women/single men is defined as no live birth following insemination at or just prior to the known time of ovulation on at least six non-stimulated cycles or a fertility problem demonstrated at investigation. For same sex couples/single women/single men, the non-stimulated cycles may be achieved through a private arrangement or through NHS-provided IUI with donor sperm. Intra-uterine insemination (IUI) is not funded by WHSSC. Funding for IUI is the responsibility of the Health Boards. Where donor sperm is needed to undertake IUI, the donated sperm will be funded by WHSSC, but not the IUI procedure."

Our response:

I can confirm that the Health Board does not hold the information that you require. This data would need to be provided by the Welsh Fertility Institute (WFI).

Your request therefore would need to be redirected to WFI.

Their contact details can be found via the following link:

<https://www.thefertilityinstitute.co.uk/en/page/contact>