**IVF Assisted Contraception Service**

**on behalf of**

**NHS Merton & Wandsworth**

**Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)**

**Memorandum of Information (MOI)**

# Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Information (MOI) is to provide a background and strategic context for the IVF AQP Service for NHS Merton and Wandsworth Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

This MOI shares the key outcomes intended from the service as well as the current assumptions being made to inform the case for change.

The Merton & Wandsworth CCG are considering a collaborative commissioning of a singular contractual IVF service solution and market engagement intends to test and validate both the assumptions being made and to explore the level of interest from the market.

The information currently being shared through this MOI may be subject to change and revision following market engagement, so the content should not be relied upon as the basis of any response to any potential future procurement or contracting process.

Providers who have a potential interest in being involved in providing a Merton and Wandsworth IVF Service are invited to engage with the CCGs including reviewing and commenting on the draft Service Specification and associated commercial features of the contractual approach being developed.

1. **BACKGROUND: CURRENT SERVICE PROVISION**

All patients across South West London are referred to a single access and triage service for IVF,

managed by Epsom & St. Helier Hospitals (ESH). From this point, patients are given choice of their

preferred IVF service, which is provided differently in Merton and Wandsworth.

In Merton, the service providers are:

- AQP Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

- Create Health Ltd AQP.

- AQP Epsom And St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust.

- AQP Guys & St Thomas NHS FT Trust.

- AQP Kingston Hospital Foundation Trust.

In Wandsworth, services are delivered by local acute Trusts at non-PbR rates,

(which are slightly different at each Trust). Wandsworth services are provided by all the acute

Trusts mentioned. However, no services are provided by Create Health Ltd for Wandsworth.

Existing Merton AQP contracts are due to expire at the end of March 2019.

1. **THE IVF SERVICE LEVEL**

The IVF Service commissioned by Merton & Wandsworth CCG provides an Assisted

Conception Service which offers a range of appropriate assisted conception services for couples

who meet the eligibility criteria.

Infertility is a disease of the reproductive system defined by the failure to achieve a clinical

pregnancy after 12 months or more of regular unprotected sexual intercourse.

The service aims to treat subfertility. The objective of treatment for subfertility is to achieve

successful pregnancy quickly and safely with the least intervention required and the delivery of a

healthy child. Assisted conception is a collective name for treatments designed to lead to

conception by means other than sexual intercourse where gametes are manipulated.

The specialist IVF fertility services provided to both Merton & Wandsworth patients on fulfilling the eligibility criteria include:

* In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF),
* Intra-cytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI)
* Intra Uterine Insemination (IUI) Unstimulated.
* Intra Uterine Insemination (IUI) Stimulated- Funded on an exceptional basis
* Egg, sperm, embryo and gonadal tissue cryo storage and replacement techniques and other micro-manipulation techniques
* Egg donation where no other treatment is available. The patient must be able to provide a donor; alternatively, the patient can be placed on the waiting list until a donor becomes available. This waiting list will be monitored separately to the general IVF waiting list and will not be subject to an 18-month maximum waiting time.
* Donor insemination in following conditions obstructive azoospermia, non-obstructive azoospermia, severe deficits in semen quality in couples who do not wish to undergo ICSI, where there is a high risk of transmitting a genetic disorder to the offspring, where there is a high risk of transmitting infectious disease to the offspring or woman from the man. Blood borne viruses (ICSI and sperm washing), as per NICE guidance (section 1.3.9). sperm washing is not offered as part of fertility treatment for men with hepatitis B.

Surgical sperm retrieval methods including micro-epididymal sperm aspiration (MESA), testicular sperm extraction (TESE) and percutaneous epididymal sperm aspiration (PESA) and micro TESE are funded on an exceptional basis, subject to CCG policies.



The above services are provided in line with NICE clinical guidelines 2013 and HFEA regulations

**The service agreement does not cover:**

The referral of couples by the secondary Provider to the tertiary Providers, who have not had the prerequisite investigations or treatments required, at either the primary level or secondary level. The referral letter will need to include information such as any investigations, information on patients and clearly state whether the patient is eligible for specialist treatment. In addition Providers are expected to comply with relevant legislation, including Health and Safety requirements, and to follow best practice guidelines

**4. STRATEGIC CONTEXT FOR REVIEWING OF CURRENT**

**PROVISION**

There are currently two different IVF service frameworks within the Merton & Wandsworth CCG. Merton have an AQP model and Wandsworth an Acute contract model. Both services offer the same IVF services and follow agreed CCG IVF policies. The current Merton AQP Contracts for IVF ends March 2019. The Wandsworth IVF service contract would be subject to a 6-12 month notice period.

The CCG has agreed that an IVF service should aim to improve patient experience, value for money and accessibility of services.

The purpose of Specialist Fertility is to provide a range of appropriate assisted conception services for couples who meet the eligibility criteria.

* To provide a quality, safe, cost effective assisted conception service ensuring that the risk of infection and other complications to Service users is minimised.
* To provide a personal service sensitive to the physical, psychological and emotional needs of Service users.
* To ensure effective communications between Service users and the service providers.
* To ensure effective communication between commissioners and the service providers.
* To ensure effective communication between Referrers (GP/ Secondary care clinicians/ etc.) and the service providers.
* To develop and implement a data collection and monitoring processes which provides fertility services intelligence to support the future commissioning of fertility services.

Whilst delivering the above benefits the IVF service must also deliver high quality, cost effective and evidence-based care, locally.

1. **ACTIVITY MODELLING AND PRICING APPROACH**

The NHS England Pricing Team are working towards developing an outcomes-based payment approach (OBPA) for National Healthcare Services (NHS) funded in vitro fertilization (IVF) and Intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) services to help encourage improvements in success rates and transparency across the sector.

NHS Merton, Wandsworth CCGs have been involved in the NHS England Pricing Review to support the development of a bench mark price and the development of a National service specification for. The challenge for the Pricing exercise with Providers and Commissioners was to develop an agreed non-mandatory bench mark price for 2019 with a view to have a National Mandatory tariff price in Contracts for 2020.

For the pricing review Merton & Wandsworth CCG undertook a cost impact assessment of all its IVF contracts. It was noted that there was a lack of consistency in the pricing of IVF services across all providers in Merton and Wandsworth.

The review by the CCG has included a specific focus on the IVF pathways and having identified the different contractual arrangements. The CCG subject to market interest will consider a collaborative approach to Merton and Wandsworth contract arrangements in preparation for the emerging NHSE commissioning intentions towards a National specification and Mandatory Tariff price. The completed questionnaire will gauge the level of interest in this from potential providers.

The following table sets out the benchmark Prices, based on The NHSE pricing modelling.

**Table 1. Indicative Benchmark price for the IVF Service**

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| IVF with drugs | £2,750-£3,000 |
| ICIS | £3,250-£3,500 |

1. **CONTRACT**

The Merton AQP contract is likely to be for initial 3 years duration, with the CCGs reserving the right to extend this for a further 1 year, contract start date to be confirmed. The Wandsworth Contracts will be reviewed following the market engagement process.

1. **MARKET ENGAGEMENT**

The CCG recognises the need to engage with the market to:

* Share, explore and validate the planning assumptions and commissioning intentions being developed;
* Gain a confidence that the specified requirements of the CCGs are reasonable and achievable;
* Have the confidence that the requirements can be delivered within the budget being made available by the CCGs;
* Identify how many providers have an intention to respond to a procurement opportunity; and

to facilitate provider networking.

**Providers are requested to complete the questionnaire**