



Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group
West Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group

**LEICESTERSHIRE, LEICESTER AND RUTLAND HEALTH OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 24 JANUARY 2020**

**REPORT OF LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND CLINICAL
COMMISSIONING GROUPS (LLR CCG)**

**LLR CCG'S COMMISSIONING POLICY FOR GAMETE AND EMBRYO
CRYOPRESERVATION**

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to enable the Committee to discuss Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) Commissioning Policy for Gamete and Embryo Cryopreservation and to note the four week public consultation that is due to commence.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The LLR CCG's policy for Gamete and Embryo Cryopreservation has been presented at the LLR Clinical Commissioning Committee in December 2019 and the LLR Governing Body on 14 January 2020, where the following was agreed:
 - Approve commencement of four week consultation;
 - Approve the communication and engagement plan; and
 - Discuss the commissioning policy.

Background

3. As part of the East Midlands Advisory Commissioning Committee (EMACC), of which Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) is a member, it was agreed that the Gamete and Embryo Cryopreservation commissioning policy required updating to consider all patient groups who may have their fertility compromised as a result of NHS funded treatment, including those patients who are due to receive treatment as part of gender reassignment. The policy describes the circumstances in which gametes (cells used in reproduction – egg or sperm) and embryos (fertilised eggs) can be frozen for use at a later date.
4. LLR CCG's have worked collaboratively as part of EMACC to draft a commissioning policy for Gamete and Embryo Cryopreservation. Following review by LLR CCGs, this policy is now ready to go out to public consultation over a period of four weeks.

Consultation

5. LLR CCGs Communications and Engagement team will be consulting patients, carers, providers and members of the public on the proposed new Gamete and

Embryo Cryopreservation Policy on behalf of the East Midlands Affiliated Commissioning Committee. It will seek to assess the impact of the policy by asking for people's views on the proposal before a final decision is made. We will be discussing the policy wording and the communications and engagement plan with representatives from HealthWatch and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Centre, prior to formal launch of the consultation.

6. As part of the communications and plan, the objectives of this four week consultation are to:
- Engage with Healthwatch and the LGBT community on the early draft of the proposed Gamete and Embryo Cryopreservation policy in context, wording and any factors that need to be considered;
 - Consult on the final draft of the proposed policy as set out in the communications and engagement plan before any changes or decisions are made;
 - Describe how the CCGs will reach different members of the community including those who are seldom heard;
 - Enable the CCGs to demonstrate that they are listening; and
 - Make changes based on what is learnt from this feedback.

Timetable for Decisions

7. LLR CCG's Communications and Engagement team were given approval to begin a four week consultation process by the LLR CCG's Governing Body on 14th January 2020. This process is due to begin shortly, with feedback and analysis being provided to EMACC for any relevant changes to the policy to be made before its final approval.

Conclusions

8. LLR CCGs are asking the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to discuss LLR CCG's Commissioning Policy for Gamete and Embryo Cryopreservation and to note the four week consultation process that is due commence.
9. This policy describes the circumstances in which gametes and embryos can be frozen for use at a later date. Many of the existing policies within the East Midlands CCGs apply only to patients who are about to undergo cancer treatment. It is proposed that the new policy will include patients who are about to undergo gender reassignment treatment/surgery.
10. The nineteen CCGs in the East Midlands are consulting with patients and other key stakeholders about a new regional Gamete and Embryo Cryopreservation Policy, which is being led by LLR CCGs. If approved, the policy will ensure a standard approach is used for patients throughout the East Midlands.

Background papers

CCG Board Papers 14 January 2020

<https://www.westleicestershireccg.nhs.uk/publications/your-ccg/west-leicestershire-ccg-board/board-meetings-and-board-papers/board-papers-2020/14-january-2020/1928-llr-ccgs-governing-bodies-public-meetings-in-common-14-january-2020/file>

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

Not applicable.

Officer to Contact

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List of Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Draft Commissioning Policy for Gamete and Embryo Cryopreservation.
- Appendix 2 - NHS England guidance: 'Guidance on CCGs Fertility Preservation May 2019'
- Appendix 3 - Equality Impact and Risk Assessment.
- Appendix 4 - Communications and Engagement Plan.

Relevant Impact Assessments**Equality and Human Rights Implications**

11. (Please see appendix 3).

Crime and Disorder Implications

12. n/a

Environmental Implications

13. n/a

Partnership Working and associated issues

14. n/a

Risk Assessment

15. (Please see appendix 3).

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