

Template Policy

Template Policy:	2013-06: Intra-uterine insemination (IUI) using partner sperm
Issue Date:	October 2015
Review Date:	October 2017
<p>Recommendation:</p> <p>The Brighton & Hove Assisted Reproductive Technologies Policy & Commissioning Group (ARTPCG) has considered up to date information on current guidance and legislation, a review of the literature, an assessment of the baseline position, views and opinions of stakeholders, equality assessment, and the impact of policy changes on patients and the wider population. Taking these into account, the Group recommends that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to six cycles of IUI with partner sperm will be funded as a treatment option for eligible couples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ who are unable to, or would find it very difficult to, have vaginal intercourse because of a clinically diagnosed physical disability or psychosexual problem ○ who are clinically indicated to receive IUI following a successful sperm washing procedure¹ where the man is HIV positive • In order to access NHS funded IUI using partner sperm, patients will be required to fulfill relevant eligibility criteria set out in <i>Template Criteria for NHS Funded Assisted Reproductive Technologies</i> (BHHCCG 2015): <p>See overleaf for details of supporting evidence and rationale.</p> <p>NHS Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group will always consider appropriate individual funding requests (IFRs) through its IFR process.</p>	

Supporting documents

KMCS Health Policy Support Unit (2013) *Assisted reproductive technologies – Final report*

KMCS Health Policy Support Unit (2013) *Template Criteria for NHS Funded Assisted Reproductive Technologies – Amended BHCCG 2015*

NICE (2013) *Clinical guideline 156 – Fertility: Assessment and treatment for people with fertility problems*, Online: <http://www.nice.org.uk/cg156>

¹ Access to NHS funded sperm washing is addressed in a separate policy

Key findings and rationale

What is intra-uterine insemination (IUI)?

IUI is a form of treatment where sperm are inserted into the uterine cavity around the time of ovulation. IUI can be carried out in a natural cycle, without the use of drugs, or the ovaries may be stimulated with oral anti-oestrogens or gonadotrophins. IUI can be undertaken using partner or donor sperm; this policy recommendation addresses the former circumstances only.

What are the indications for IUI using partner sperm?

IUI has previously been used as a treatment for fertility problems such as unexplained infertility, mild endometriosis and mild male factor infertility. It can also be used as an alternative to vaginal sexual intercourse, for example, where there is a disability that prevents vaginal intercourse.

What national guidance exists on fertility?

In February 2013 NICE issued Clinical Guideline 156 (CG156), *Fertility: assessment and treatment for people with fertility problems*. This replaces Clinical Guideline 11 (CG11), which was issued in February 2004. The aim of updating NICE guidelines was to revise recommendations on selected topics in the light of new evidence and, where appropriate, make new recommendations. In addition, the scope of CG156 was wider in terms of the patient groups considered.

What does NICE currently recommend with regard to NHS provision of IUI using partner sperm?

CG156 recommends IUI using partner sperm as a treatment option for the following groups:

- people who are unable to, or would find it very difficult to, have vaginal intercourse because of a clinically diagnosed physical disability or psychosexual problem
- people with conditions that require specific consideration in relation to methods of conception (for example, after sperm washing² where the man is HIV positive)

Why is IUI no longer recommended by NICE for couples with fertility problems?

NICE no longer recommends IUI for people with unexplained infertility, mild endometriosis or mild male factor infertility because a review of the literature concluded that IUI without stimulation is no better than expectant management. It is unclear if IUI with stimulation is more effective than expectant management for these groups, however it is likely to increase the risk of multiple pregnancies, which is the single biggest risk of fertility treatment.

What are the eligibility criteria for access to IUI with partner sperm?

In order to access NHS funded IUI using partner sperm, patients will be required to fulfil the relevant eligibility criteria set out in *Template Criteria for NHS Funded Assisted Reproductive Technologies* (KMCS HPSU, 2013).

Why are eligibility criteria in place for access to assisted reproductive technologies?

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) have put in place eligibility criteria for access to assisted reproductive technologies in order to focus resources on groups of patients most likely to have successful outcomes, and prioritise groups of patients who are most likely to have the greatest need.

² Access to NHS funded sperm washing is addressed in a separate policy