

Reference:	FOI.17113.25
Subject:	Fertility preservation policies for patients with endometriosis
Date of Request:	16 April 2025

Requested:

I would be grateful if you could provide information on the following:

1. Policy on Fertility Preservation:
Does your ICB have a specific policy regarding fertility preservation? (e.g., egg or embryo freezing) for patients with endometriosis prior to surgical intervention for ovarian endometriomas/ endometriotic cysts?
2. Clinical Criteria for Funding:
Are there set clinical criteria that must be met for patients with endometriosis to receive NHS funding for fertility preservation?
For example, do these criteria include:
 - Age restrictions?
 - Requirement for patients to be undergoing surgery for bilateral endometriomas or other specific endometriosis-related surgeries?
 - A previous history of surgery for endometriosis?
 - A specific Anti-Müllerian Hormone (AMH) cut-off value?
3. Scope of Funding:
If funding is available, is it typically provided for one cycle of egg/embryo freezing, or are additional cycles potentially funded if the patient responds poorly to the initial cycle?
4. Second or Further Cycles:
In the case of an unexpectedly poor response to the initial funded cycle, is there any possibility of additional funding being granted for a second or further cycle of egg/embryo freezing?
5. Statistics on Funding Applications:
 - a. How many patients with endometriosis have been granted NHS funding for fertility preservation prior to surgery in the last two years?
 - b. How many funding applications for fertility preservation for patients with endometriosis have been made and subsequently declined during this same period?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) regrets to inform you that it does not hold the information requested as egg preservation is the funding responsibility of the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee (NWJCC). Therefore, if the Referral Management Centre (RMC) within the UHB receive a request for egg preservation from a local NHS Consultant, the referral would be re-directed to the NWJCC for consideration. Additionally, the RMC does not accept requests directly from patients.

We therefore recommend that you redirect your request to the Freedom of Information Team in NWJCC:

nwjcc@wales.nhs.uk

or alternatively, you can contact:

NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee,
Freedom of Information Request,
Corporate Services,
Unit G1, The Willowford,
Main Avenue, Treforest Industrial Estate,
Pontypridd, CF37 5YL