

Edinburgh Fertility Centre

Access Criteria for NHS Funded Donor Insemination

Patient Information



Referral for Donor Insemination treatment can only be made if **all access criteria as set out below are fulfilled**. Eligibility against access criteria assessed before each treatment cycle.

Please be aware that if you do not meet the Access Criteria when you are offered an appointment, you will be removed from the Waiting List. You can be placed back on to the waiting list once you meet the criteria, however you will be added to the end of the waiting list.

Residency	Be in a couple and live in Lothian or the Borders.
Stable relationship	Have been co-habiting (at the same address) in a stable relationship for a minimum of two years.
Sterilisation	Neither partner had voluntary sterilisation nor who have undertaken reversal of sterilisation, even if reversal has been self-funded.
Biological child	Have one partner with no living biological child. Same sex couples who have previously conceived through assisted conception and are both named on the resulting child's birth certificate are not eligible for future treatment.
Body Mass Index (BMI)	The prospective birth mother must have a BMI above 18.5 and below 30. Couples should be aware that a normal BMI is best for both partners.
Smoking	Both partners must not smoke, vape or use nicotine for at least three months before referral for treatment and couples must continue to be non-smoking and nicotine free during treatment.
Alcohol and Drugs	Both partners must abstain from illegal and abusive substances Both partners must be Methadone free for at least one year prior to referral for treatment. Neither partner should drink alcohol prior to or during the period of treatment.
Age	Treatment must start before the prospective birth mother's 40 th birthday.
Welfare of the Child	Couples must satisfy the requirements of a Welfare of the Child Assessment.

What is the 'welfare of the child' assessment?

During a patient's first consultation at a fertility clinic, their doctor will ask them a number of questions about their medical history to determine the best course of treatment for them. The doctor will also ask the patient a series of questions relating to their social circumstances in person or by asking them to complete a questionnaire.

These questions are part of an assessment, known as the welfare of the child assessment, which clinics are required to perform in order to determine whether the prospective child is likely to face serious medical, physical or psychological harm.

Number of cycles

Up to six cycles of Donor Insemination may be undertaken where there is a reasonable expectation of a live birth. Clinical judgement should be applied to determine this. After three to six unsuccessful cycles of Donor Insemination, the couple can be referred for IVF with donor sperm.

If the prospective birth mother is referred at 38 or 39 years old, the couple will be provided with the option to start IVF treatment with donor sperm instead of starting Donor Insemination Treatment. If a couple is referred when the female partner is 39, the couple will most likely receive one NHS IVF cycle. Once a couple has started IVF Treatment they are no longer eligible for Donor Insemination treatment.

No individual can access more than 6 NHS funded Donor Insemination cycles, under any circumstances, even if they are in a new relationship.

Self funded Donor Insemination (full sibling only)

In the event that NHS funded Donor Insemination treatment has been successful, there is a small possibility that we can offer couples the option to self fund additional cycles of Donor Insemination treatment for a full sibling. The additional criteria to be met are:

Sperm Donor

Sperm must remain available from the original donor as used in the successful NHS funded cycle. Where sperm is no longer available, the centre may attempt to contact the original donor, however they are under no obligation to provide another donation.

Recipient

The recipient of any self funded cycles of Donor Insemination must match that of the recipient in the successful NHS funded cycle (i.e. the birth mother).

Number of Cycles

Up to 4 cycles of self funded Donor Insemination treatment can be offered to each couple. Due to capacity, we are only able to treat one couple per month. Please contact a member of the team for an updated position on waiting times.

Price

Cycles must be paid for in advance, with a minimum of two cycles purchased at a time before treatment can start. Any unused cycles following the completion of treatment will be refunded. Please contact us on 0131 242 2445 for an up to date price.