

Ref: FOI/00426/CMICB
22 June 2023

Dear

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000
Mayer-Rokitansky-Kuster-Hauser (MRKH) Syndrome IVF Policy**

Thank you for your information request indicated in bold below, which has now been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB). I am able to provide you with the following information and responses.

Please note from 01 July 2022, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were disestablished, and their statutory functions and responsibilities inherited by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB.

Your Request:

- 1) Does your ICB fund IVF for women who do not possess a uterus, but meet all other set-out criteria, and are willing to fund the cost of a surrogate?**
- 2) Does your ICB fund IVF for women who have MRKH, but meet all other set-out criteria, and are willing to fund the cost of a surrogate?**

Our Response:

1 – 2) Please find listed below links to the current assisted fertility policies for all patients registered in each of the former CCG areas that now make up NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB, which are publicly available and detail the eligibility criteria for NHS funded IVF.

Cheshire (Eastern/South/Vale Royal)

<https://www.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/media/hitpl5pa/subfertility-policy-2017-18-east-south-cheshire-may-2018.pdf>

Cheshire (West)

<https://www.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/media/yski4uqj/subfertility-policy-2017-18-vale-royal-may-2018.pdf>

Halton

<https://www.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/media/sgxmlhhi/subfertility-policy-2014-15-halton-21-10-2015.pdf>

Knowsley

<https://www.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/media/uvbfkpck/subfertility-policy-2014-15-knowsley-21-10-2015.pdf>

Liverpool

<https://www.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/media/mwxp1bg1/subfertility-policy-2014-15-liverpool-21-10-2015.pdf>

South Sefton

<https://www.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/media/lwmme4hn/subfertility-policy-2014-15-sefton-21-11-2014.pdf>

Southport & Formby

<https://www.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/media/ja3mlegd/subfertility-policy-2014-15-southport-and-formby-21-11-2014.pdf>

St Helens

<https://www.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/media/gqvvhloy/subfertility-policy-2015-16-st-helens-may-2015.pdf>

Warrington

<https://www.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/media/fxnplce4/subfertility-policy-2014-15-warrington-21-10-2015.pdf>

Wirral

<https://www.wirralccg.nhs.uk/media/yski4uqj/subfertility-policy-2017-18-vale-royal-may-2018.pdf>

Further information regarding the current application of the inherited former CCG commissioning policies in operation across the Cheshire & Merseyside area can be found on our website via the following link:

<https://www.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/about/how-we-work/commissioning-policies/>

All of the above former CCG assisted fertility policies detail at Section 6 the below extract in relation to surrogacy:

6. Surrogacy

6.1 The CCG will not commission any form of fertility treatment to those in surrogacy arrangements (i.e. the use of a third party to bear a child for another couple). This is due to the numerous legal and ethical issues involved.

Based on the above, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB would therefore not routinely fund IVF for patients that includes any surrogacy arrangements.

Please note that applications to fund treatment or services not routinely offered by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB can be made by a treating clinician on behalf of patient through the Individual Funding Request (IFR) process for individual consideration.

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response or do not feel that your request has been answered as you would expect, please contact us to discuss.

We also wish to take this opportunity to inform you that, where you are not satisfied with the response to your request for information, a formal complaints and internal review process is available.

This can be formally requested by emailing foi@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk and must be done within a reasonable time period (3 calendar months) from the date this response was issued.

Where you remain dissatisfied with our review under the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted at;

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk