

F-2015-00009- numbers of people seeking IVF treatment by country, drop-out rates and success rates

4th February 2017

Summary of request

The Authority was asked a number of questions about numbers of people seeking IVF treatment by country, drop-out rates and success rates.

HFEA response

You have requested a number of questions presented below along with their answers.

Please be aware that I have replaced number between 1-4 with a '<5' figure. This is because there is a significant possibility that this information, when combined with other information to which you may reasonably be expected to have access, could lead to the identification of a person to whom the HFEA owes a duty of confidentiality. To disclose this information in these circumstances may therefore result in a breach of the confidentiality provisions of section 33A of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as amended), and the information is therefore exempt from disclosure under section 44 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I have also obscured a number of rates in examples which contain less than 50 cycles. It is the HFEA's view that in situations such as these the small sample size make rate calculation unhelpful.

1. Do you have an estimate of the rate of infertility in the UK population?

The HFEA Register only holds information on the women seeking treatment in the UK. It does not hold information on the rate of infertility.

2. Could you provide the number of people seeking treatment for a) fertility problems in a) Scotland b) Wales c) Northern Ireland d) England?

Tab 1 of the attached document shows the number of patients who had IVF treatment between 1991 and 2013. Tab 2 show the same but for Donor Insemination (DI) and tab 3 shows a combined table.

3. Could you provide the number of people seeking IVF or ICSI treatment in a) Scotland b) Wales c) Northern Ireland d) England?

This information can be found on Tab 4.

4. Could you provide information on the number of patients who achieve a live birth after the first cycle?

This information can be found on Tab 5.

5. Could you provide the dropout rate following the first cycle of IVF?

The HFEA has no way of knowing whether a women intends to begin another cycle of treatment in the future and so does not hold information on why or when women 'dropout'..

6. Could you provide information on the number of patients that drop out for reason other than a live birth after the first cycle?

The HFEA does not hold information on the reasons why patients stop treatment after a single cycle.

7. Could you provide information on the dropout rates for each successive cycle after the first?

The HFEA does not hold information on why or when women drop out of treatment.

8. Could you provide the average success rates for IVF for a) Scotland b) Wales c) Northern Ireland d) England?

This information can be found on tab 6. Please note that this data is drawn from fresh IVF cycles using either own or donor eggs only.

9. Could you provide the average success rates for ICSI for a) Scotland b) Wales c) Northern Ireland d) England?

This information can be found on tab 7. Please note that this data is drawn from fresh ICSI cycles using either own or donor eggs only.

10. Could you provide the average success rates for FET for a) Scotland b) Wales c) Northern Ireland d) England?

This information can be found on tab 8. Please note that this data is drawn from frozen own or donor egg cycles only.

11. Could you provide the success rates for women who have only had FET using embryos from a single egg collection, and for those using embryos from multiple egg collections per cycle broken down by a) first cycle b) second cycle and c) third cycle?

The Authority estimates that the cost of complying with this request would exceed the 'appropriate limit' set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 ('the Regulations'). This limit is £450 and for the purposes of estimating cost, staff time is calculated at notional rate of £25 per hour. Section 12 of the FOIA allows public authorities to decline to provide information requested under the FOIA where the cost of doing so would exceed this appropriate limit.

In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information the Regulations entitle the Authority to take into account the combined costs of determining whether the information is held, locating the information, retrieving the information and extracting the information for the purpose of disclosure.

The Authority has estimated the cost of complying fully with your request as £450. To complete this extra part of your request is estimated to cost another £150 and for this reason your request is refused.

12. Could you provide the success rates for FET for all women using embryos only from a single egg collection, and all women using embryos only from multiple egg collections per cycle broken down by a) first cycle b) second cycle and c) third cycle

The Authority estimates that the cost of complying with this request would exceed the 'appropriate limit' set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 ('the Regulations'). This limit is £450 and for the purposes of estimating cost, staff time is calculated at notional rate of £25 per hour. Section 12 of the FOIA allows public authorities to decline to provide information requested under the FOIA where the cost of doing so would exceed this appropriate limit.

In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information the Regulations entitle the Authority to take into account the combined costs of determining whether the information is held, locating the information, retrieving the information and extracting the information for the purpose of disclosure.

The Authority has estimated the cost of complying fully with your request as £450. To complete this extra part of your request is estimated to cost another £150 and for this reason your request is refused.

13. Do you have any information on the number of patients who seek treatment abroad?

The HFEA does not hold information on women seeking treatment abroad.

14. Could you provide the ranges between the best and worst individual IVF clinic success rates (without necessarily specifying the clinic) for a) Scotland b) Wales c) Northern Ireland d) England

The information you have requested is routinely published under the Authority's Publication Scheme and can be found on the HYPERLINK "<http://guide.hfea.gov.uk/guide/>" Authority's website. As the information you have requested is reasonably accessible via the HFEA website, it is exempt from disclosure under section 21 FOIA.

15. Do you have any information on the transfer of patients from NHS funded cycles to privately funded cycles?

This information can be found on tab 9. This table shows the year in question and the different possible movement of patients from private and NHS funded cycles having a minimum of two treatments and a maximum of five. The occurrences column gives the number of times (i.e number of patients) that fit the particular movement criteria. In 2008 for example, 1161 had an initial NHS funded cycle before having a self-funded cycle. This example is marked in the table.

16. Do you have information on the number of cycles started in a) the private sector b) the NHS

This information can be found on tab 10. This data includes all IVF and DI related forms (including things like egg collections) from 1991 to 2013.

17. Could you provide the most recent cumulative success rates for a full cycle of a) IVF b) ICSI

At present the HFEA does not calculate cumulative success rates. Beginning to do so however is part of our current Information for Quality programme. Therefore the data that you have requested is presently being withheld under section 22 FOIA (future publication). It is intended that the data will be published at a future date which is yet to be determined.

18. Could you provide the most recent data on the number of patients undergoing IVF, broken down by a) first cycle b) second cycle, and c) third cycle etc

This information can be found on tab 11 and looks at the number of previous treatment cycles a patient has had, when having their most recent treatment in 2013.

19. Do you have any information on the reason for discontinuing cycles?

The information you have requested is routinely published under the Authority's Publication Scheme and can be found on the Authority's website on tab 18: [http://www.hfea.gov.uk/docs/2014-12-17 -
Fertility treatment in 2013 trends and figures - Data sheet \(for publication\) - FINAL.xlsx](http://www.hfea.gov.uk/docs/2014-12-17-_Fertility_treatment_in_2013_trends_and_figures_-_Data_sheet_(for_publication)_-_FINAL.xlsx)

20. Could you provide the success rates for a) Scotland b) Wales c) Northern Ireland d) England broken down by age range of i) 30-35 ii) 36-39 iii) 40-42

This information can be found on tab 12.