



People who live in Highland who fulfil any of the following criteria will be considered for NHS funded IVF treatment. **The eligibility criteria are re-applied for each treatment cycle** e.g. if the woman reaches the age of 40 or if the total number of transfers reaches three or if a child becomes part of the couple's family then the couple become ineligible for further cycles.

Couples must be in a stable marriage or relationship of at least two years.

- Couples with infertility of diagnosed cause of any duration for which assisted conception represents effective treatment e.g. male factor, damaged or blocked tubes, major degree of endometriosis.

Or

- Couples with unexplained infertility of at least **three years duration**.

Or

- Couples where the woman is unable to produce their own eggs or who have a medical condition requiring treatment that will make them sterile.

Couples must also meet the following criteria:

- Where the female partner is aged **less than 37 years or less at time of referral – maximum age at time of treatment is 39 years and treatment will cease when female reaches 40 years. The upper age limit will not apply for replacement of frozen embryos which were created from previous treatments occurring before the patient's 40th birthday, ie if a woman is in the middle of eligible cycles of treatment, then the frozen embryo can still be used after the 40th birthday.**
- Where neither partner has previously undergone a sterilisation procedure.
- Have **no child living with them in their home**.
- Previous embryo transfers funded by any source will be counted towards the maximum of three.

Number of cycles funded by Highland Health Board

Couples meeting the above eligibility criteria should be entitled to a maximum of **three NHS funded cycles of assisted conception**. Each couple is entitled to a three full cycles of down-regulation, ovarian stimulation, egg recovery and embryo transfer. Following each cycle a full review of the outcomes will be discussed. If it is decided the treatment is unlikely to benefit the couple further treatment will not be provided/offered.

An unsuccessful cycle not reaching the stage of egg recovery because of failure of stimulation need **not** count as one of a couple's three cycles.

An unsuccessful cycle not reaching the stage of embryo transfer because of a considered risk of OHSS need **not** count as one of the couple's three cycles.

An unsuccessful cycle not reaching the stage of embryo transfer because of failure of fertilisation **need not** count as one of the couple's three cycles.

Once accepted onto the assisted conception programme couples are permitted to undergo successive cycles within their own time frame.

Couples with three or more frozen embryos available following their first cycle must have transfer of frozen embryos prior to any further fresh cycles.

If couples meet the criteria and are accepted onto the programme all drugs required will be paid for by Highland Health Board.