In 2004 the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published information about the effectiveness of fertility treatments, and made recommendations about the services that PCTs should make available. Like many other primary care trusts (PCTs), Oxfordshire PCT cannot afford to provide all the treatments that were recommended. Therefore, a policy was developed for Oxfordshire to provide a limited range of fertility treatments.

What fertility treatments are available in Oxfordshire at the moment?
Oxfordshire PCT will fund couples and individuals to have one cycle of treatment using one of the following:

1. **In Vitro Fertilisation** (IVF) A technique where eggs are collected from a woman and fertilised with a man’s sperm outside the body (‘test tube baby’). One or two resulting embryos are then transferred to the womb with the aim of starting a pregnancy

2. **Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection** (ICSI) A variation of IVF where a single sperm is injected directly inside an egg. Embryos are then transferred to the womb with the aim of starting a pregnancy

3. **Donor Insemination** The placement of donor sperm into the vagina, cervix or womb

4. **Intra Uterine Insemination** (IUI) Placement of sperm into the uterus of a woman

All couples and individuals must meet the following criteria to be eligible for treatment:
- The woman must be aged between 35 and 38 inclusive, and must be neither overweight nor underweight (Body Mass Index between 19 and 30)
- Both the man and woman must be non-smokers

Couples and individuals who are not eligible for treatment:
- If the man and the woman have had a child together (including an adopted child) OR if either of them has had a child in a previous relationship, (including an adopted child), they are not eligible for treatment
- To fertile women who are in a same sex partnership, or fertile women who are single
- If the woman has previously had NHS or privately-funded fertility treatment (IVF and ICSI), they are not eligible for treatment.

For those with access to the internet, the policy can be read in full here: [http://www.oxfordshire.nhs.uk/documents/11cAssistedconceptionpolicyminoramendmentMarch08.pdf](http://www.oxfordshire.nhs.uk/documents/11cAssistedconceptionpolicyminoramendmentMarch08.pdf)

**What changes are proposed?**
A review of the fertility treatment policies across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight took place in November 2008, and found
variation across the region. To provide a fairer system and to ensure that the most
effective treatments are funded, some changes are now recommended. These include:
• Reducing the woman’s age-range for treatment from 35 -38 to 30-34.
• Allowing those people who have self-funded no more than two cycles of IVF to
undergo an NHS-funded cycle.
• Funding the freezing of embryos that result from fertility treatments funded by
Oxfordshire for three years, or until the woman reaches the age of 40. These
embryos could be used in privately-funded fertility treatment.
• Intra Uterine Insemination (IUI) will no longer be funded.

Several other changes are proposed, and these are set out in detail in a discussion
document that can be obtained from the address below.

What help do we need from you?
Before any changes are made to Oxfordshire’s policy, we would like to hear your views.
There are two ways you can be involved.

1. Attend a meeting where the suggested changes will be discussed. We will explain
the proposals, give you an opportunity to ask questions, and ask you to tell us what you
think. (See below for contact information)

2. Read the discussion document that provides detailed information about the changes,
and complete a questionnaire. (See below for contact information)

What will happen next?
The deadline for responses is 17 April 2009. All the feedback received will be
summarised and published on our website. The feedback will be considered in detail by
a committee of PCT representatives from across the region, and it is planned that a
decision will be made at the end of May 2009.

Please note that, if the policy is changed, arrangements will be made to ensure
that anyone in Oxfordshire who is in the process of having or being assessed for
fertility treatment will not be disadvantaged.

Further information and contact details
Phone, e-mail or write to us to receive a copy of the full discussion document and the
questionnaire. They can also be accessed via www.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk.
You do not need to provide your name or address to respond but if you do, your
comments will be treated in confidence.

Please return your feedback by Friday 17 April 2009 to the freepost address below.

Communications and Involvement Team
Freepost RRRK-BZBT-ASXU
2nd Floor Jubilee House
5510 John Smith Drive
Oxford Business Park South
OXFORD OX4 2LH

Or phone: 01865 336790
Or Email:
Public.involvement@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk
No stamp is needed.