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Full funding of IVF treatment would lower rates of multiple pregnancies - Fertility Network UK responds

Aileen Feeney, chief executive of national patient charity Fertility Network UK said: 'For couples experiencing years of heartbreak in their struggle to have children, the decision to choose a single embryo transfer rather than a multiple embryo transfer can be a very tough one which is made even more difficult if they are facing the financially-crippling costs of private IVF treatment. Multiple pregnancies in the UK, with their health risks to mother and baby, and long-term costs to the NHS, will not fall until the Government commits to funding the nationally recommended 3 full IVF cycles. Our research last year, with Fertility Clinics Abroad, shows the lack of UK state funding for fertility treatment is the key reason why infertile couples travel overseas for fertility treatment; however, different regulations overseas relating to the number of embryos that can be transferred means there is a greater likelihood of multiple pregnancies - and an associated bill for the NHS.'

ENDS

Notes to editors:

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1. Fertility Network UK provides practical and emotional support, authoritative information and advice for anyone experiencing fertility issues. The charity works to raise the profile and understanding of fertility issues and to push for timely and equitable provision of fertility treatment throughout the UK.

2. *Understanding the Drivers behind Fertility Tourism 2017* by Fertility Network UK and Fertility Clinics Abroad is available for download at <https://www.fertilityclinicsabroad.com/ivf-clinics-abroad/understanding-drivers-behind-fertility-tourism-uk-2017/>

3. Fertility Network UK provides a free and impartial Support Line 0121 323 5025

4. Fertility Network UK supports people. We rely on voluntary donations to continue our vital work. You can donate now by visiting www.justgiving.com/infertilitynetwork