



Released: 3 October 2022

One month to go to National Fertility Awareness Week

31 October - 4 November 2022

#Fighting4Fertility

National Fertility Awareness Week 31 October - 4 November 2022 is just one month away.

Make sure to catch these highlights, including a major, new survey revealing:

- the emotional impact of infertility and fertility treatment,
- the impact of juggling fertility treatment and employment, and
 - the crippling cost of IVF.

Gwenda Burns, chief executive of Fertility Network UK said: "Not being able to have the family you yearn for can be a traumatic and incredibly isolating experience. Far too often people struggle in silence with fertility issues but together - sharing stories and experiences - we can change perceptions, provide support and raise funds to help others. We are stronger together.'

'National Fertility Awareness Week is a chance to challenge the taboos and myths around infertility and raise awareness of the devastating physical, emotional and social impact fertility problems wreak. This year the theme is #Fighting4Fertility because so much change is needed to help the 3.5million women and men in the UK facing infertility. Watch out for our major new survey assessing the impact of infertility and fertility treatment and our daily calls for action.'

Make a date in your diary for

Mon 31 October #FertilityFairness

We reveal what it's like to experience infertility and fertility treatment in the UK today. If patients can't access NHS-funded help, how much do they pay on average for private treatment? Do employers support their staff undergoing IVF? Do GPs provide the info patients need? How devastating is a diagnosis of infertility and is support available?

Tue 1 November #FertilityInTheWorkplace

Fertility treatment is still not recognised by the majority of employers as necessary medical treatment and there is still no legal right to time off work for fertility appointments. We are calling for employers to recognise fertility treatment as a clinical necessity and to provide appropriate medical leave.

Wednesday 2 November #HIMFertility

Male factor fertility problems are the most common reason for a couple to seek fertility treatment, yet far too often men's fertility is not tested in the first stages of a couple seeking medical help, leading to unnecessary delays and distress. We are calling for men's fertility to be tested in a timely manner at the same time as a woman's fertility is explored.

Thursday 3 November #FertilityEd

Fertility education is now part of the secondary school curriculum but what is taught is limited. We are calling for comprehensive fertility education for teenagers and young adults, so they understand fertility isn't a guarantee, how age and lifestyle impact fertility, and appreciate the limits of fertility treatments, including IVF and egg freezing.

Friday 4 November #TalkFertility

Infertility is so often a lonely experience - too many people struggle in silence. Yet talking about what you are facing and hearing how others have coped with their fertility journey can be extraordinarily helpful. We highlight patient experiences and signpost available help, including our regional and specialty online groups.

<https://fertilitynetworkuk.org/national-fertility-awareness-week-31-oct-4-november-2022/>

Notes to editors:

Contact: Catherine Hill, communications manager on 07469-660845
media@fertilitynetworkuk.org Media volunteers are available on request.

- National Fertility Awareness Week 31 Oct-4 Nov seeks to change perceptions, provide support and raise funds for everyone struggling with fertility issues.
- Fertility Network UK provides practical and emotional support, 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. www.fertilitynetworkuk.org
- Fertility Network UK provides a free [Support Line](#) and regional and specialty online [fertility support groups](#).
- Fertility Network UK supports people. We rely on voluntary donations to continue our vital work. You can donate now by visiting <https://fertilitynetworkuk.org/donate/>