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Fertility Network UK welcomes move to widen access to NHS-funded fertility treatment in Northern Ireland

Commenting on the news that Northern Ireland is widening access to NHS-funded fertility treatment, **Hilary Knight Northern Ireland Coordinator with Fertility Network, said:**

“Fertility patients in Northern Ireland will be delighted to hear that couples and individuals under 40 or possibly 42 if they have not had previous IVF cycles, will now be able to receive one full IVF cycle – previously they were only entitled to one partial IVF cycle comprising one fresh and one frozen embryo transfer. This increase in provision will offer hope to so many women and couples struggling with the distress infertility wreaks and we welcome this news.

“There is a retrospective eligibility date which means that women will be eligible for one full IVF cycle to include all frozen embryos if they were placed on the IVF waiting list on or after 1 October 2022 and they have not been successful on either of their fresh or frozen transfers.

“In 2020, the then Northern Ireland government committed to moving towards three full cycles of IVF meeting NICE guidelines for fertility treatment, but funding and capacity issues have delayed this. It is hoped that a move towards the three cycles will be implemented in due course and this move to one full IVF cycle will be the first step toward this.”

Ms Knight added: “We would encourage patients who want to establish if they will be eligible for this increase in IVF provision to contact the special helpline or email a new contact set up to help patients who are understandably anxious to find out more.”

Information from the Northern Ireland Department of Health, including email and phone contacts for patients is available [here](#).

Notes to editors:

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media@fertilitynetworkuk.org

1. Fertility Network in Northern Ireland provide information, support and advice. Please contact rachel@fertilitynetworkuk.org
2. 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
3. Fertility Network UK provides a free and impartial Support Line open from 10am to 4pm.

Mon, Wed and Fri: 0121 323 5025, support@fertilitynetworkuk.org

Tues and Thurs: 07816 086694, janet@fertilitynetworkuk.org

4. Fertility Network UK supports people. We rely on voluntary donations to continue our vital work. You can donate now via text; text FNUK plus the donation amount to 70085. Or you can donate by visiting www.justgiving.com/fertilitynetwork

