Reversal of Female Sterilisation

Policy

The reversal of female sterilisation is not normally funded by North West London Clinical Commissioning Groups. Funding may be considered via the IFR route in exceptional circumstances such as the death of only child (biological or adopted).

These policies have been approved by the eight Clinical Commissioning Groups in North West London (NHS Brent CCG, NHS Central London CCG, NHS Ealing CCG, NHS Hammersmith and Fulham CCG, NHS Harrow CCG, NHS Hillingdon CCG, NHS Hounslow CCG and NHS West London CCG).

Background

Female sterilisation is considered a permanent form of contraception. The operation involves cutting, sealing, or blocking, the fallopian tubes. This prevents the eggs from reaching the uterus (womb) where they could become fertilised, resulting in pregnancy. Female sterilisation can be reversed, but it is a very difficult process that involves removing the blocked part of the fallopian tube and re-joining the ends. There is no guarantee that the patient would become fertile again. The success rates of female sterilisation reversal depend on factors such as age, and the method that was used in the original operation. For example, if the tubes were clipped, rather than tied, a successful reversal is more likely. The current success rate of sterilisation reversal is between 50-60% ¹.

The reversal of sterilisation is a surgical procedure that involves the reconstruction of the fallopian tubes. The sterilisation procedure is available on NHS and couples seeking sterilisation should be fully advised and counselled (in accordance with RCOG guidelines) that the procedure is intended to be permanent.

References

Patient Information Leaflet


Latest version of the policy is available at:
http://www.hounslowccg.nhs.uk/what-we-do/individual-funding-requests.aspx
Version 3.3 (November 2014)