

## MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 9 November 2011

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### **NHS Surrey to reinstate IVF treatment from April 2012**

Statement from Anne Walker, Chief Executive at NHS Surrey:

“Back in November 2010 the Board of NHS Surrey took the difficult decision to defer new requests for specialised assisted conception, which includes IVF treatment. This decision was undoubtedly very tough for the people affected and it’s not a decision we took lightly.

“At the time we promised to review the decision one year on and at a meeting on Friday, the Board considered the latest clinical guidance, as well as feedback we have received from Surrey residents during the past year.

“Whilst there was unanimous agreement that the restrictions currently in place should be lifted, there was also serious debate about what we could afford financially, presenting the Board with a true dilemma.

“After long and hard consideration, the outcome was that the Board gave their absolute commitment to reinstating specialised assisted conception, including IVF, from April 2012.

“Essentially this means that from 1 April NHS Surrey’s Assisted Conception Policy will apply as it did prior to November 2010. As before, all IVF referrals would need to meet all of the criteria set out in this policy and would need to be approved by NHS Surrey.

“I know this means a further short wait for couples hoping to undergo treatment, however, I hope the Board’s decision will come as welcome news.

“We will now be writing to everyone who has contacted us over the past year to update them on recent developments and to give advice on what they need to do next” Anne added.

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For more information please contact the NHS Surrey Press Office on 01372 201722.



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## **Note to editors**

### **Treatment**

From 1 April 2012, if the couple meet NHS Surrey criteria, up to two cycles of IVF treatment will be offered. NHS Surrey’s Assisted Conception Policy, which sets out the criteria that needs to be met, is available on our website - <http://www.surreyhealth.nhs.uk/index.php/downloads/finish/7/30>.

### **Overview of the decision made last November**

For women who were already receiving IVF treatment prior to November 2010, their treatment continued. Women who would be 39 between December 2010 and November 2011 could apply for IVF treatment in the usual way so they were not disadvantaged. Where circumstances were considered to be exceptional, requests could be made by clinicians through our Individual Funding Request process. All other IVF referrals were deferred, pending the outcome of a review to be announced in November 2011.