2 June 2017

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To all Persons Responsible

Dear colleague

**Launch of our new website**

I last wrote to you in April to summarise the changes we will make to Choose a Fertility Clinic before it goes live. In that letter, I promised to send a methodology for all the data to be presented on the new version of Choose a Fertility Clinic, which I attach.

We will shortly publish pregnancy data for the 12 months ending June 2016 and birth data for the 12 months ending June 2015 on the beta version of Choose a Fertility Clinic. Thank you again for your efforts during the verification process. We have been working through the data caveats that will appear on each clinic’s profile (where necessary) and will send those caveats to individual clinics in the next few days.

Because the new website will be going live in the next few weeks, we will not publish the new data on the existing website, but only on the beta version of the new site. So, if you would like to direct patients to your latest outcome statistics, you will need to use the following address, once the data has been published (we will let you know when that happens):

https://beta.hfea.gov.uk/choose-a-clinic/clinic-search/

Once the new website has gone live, the you will need to update the link again. Each clinic’s entry on Choose a Fertility Clinic will have a unique web address (though different from the old service). When the new website goes live we will put a notice on this page directing patients to the relevant data on the new site.

Yours faithfully

Peter Thompson
Chief Executive
Choose a Fertility Clinic: methodology for statistics

1. Main profile page
The consistent/above/below mark is based on:

- For IVF: births per embryo transferred for patients under 38 having stimulated IVF or ICSI using their own fresh eggs.
- For donor insemination: births per donor insemination treatment for patients under 38, stimulated or unstimulated
- For IUI: pregnancies per insemination for patients under 38, stimulated or unstimulated

Births per embryo transferred
Number of birth events divided by the number of embryos transferred, multiplied by 100, for embryo transfers within 12 months. This includes any cycle using patients own eggs where the patient was stimulated that reached embryo transfer. Birth events include any live birth or neonatal death and are based on submitted outcomes.

Included in the calculation:

- Treatments: IVF and ICSI,
- Surrogacy if using surrogate’s eggs
- Stimulated cycles
- Cycles where patient was stimulated but frozen eggs were then used or also used in the treatment cycle.
- 12 months of data

Excluded treatments

- Any treatment which did not reach embryo transfer.
- Any treatment which did not have stimulation
- Any IVM treatment
- Any treatment which mentions embryo screening (PGD/PGS) even if not all embryos were screened or non-screened embryos were transferred

Displayed:

- Number of transferred embryos used in the calculation
- Rate of birth events arising from the embryos transferred
• Confidence interval for each age band
• National average for each age band for comparison and noted if clinic is consistent or above/below national average
• Split into three age bands: “under 38”, “38 and over”, and “all ages”

**Births per egg collection**

This figure is calculated by selecting qualifying egg collections over a 12-month period and following their usage over a maximum of 24 months. The rate is the number of births divided by the number of egg collections multiplied by 100. Birth events include any live birth or neonatal death.

Included in the calculation:

- All stimulated egg collections for any type of treatment: IVF and ICSI, PGD, PGS, surrogacy, donated gametes and where eggs are frozen
- Births occurring both from initial egg collection treatment and subsequent treatments using embryos created from the initial egg collection or from embryos created from frozen eggs at the initial egg collection
- All subsequent treatments (except exclusions below) that can be linked to the initial egg collection within 24 months of the egg collection

For cumulative birth rates using patient eggs, the age calculation is based on the age of the patient at the originating egg collection.

For cumulative birth rates using donated eggs/embryos, the age calculation is based on the age of the egg donor at the originating egg collection.

Displayed:

- Number of qualifying egg collections by the centre in time period
- Rate of birth events arising from the egg collections
- Confidence interval for each age band
- National average for each age band for comparison and noted if clinic is consistent or above/below national average
- Split into three age bands: “under 38”, “38 and over”, and “all ages”

To note for donated egg treatments:

- For donated eggs or embryos, the age group used is that of the donor at egg collection/embryo creation not the age of the recipient.
- Imported donor egg treatments have been excluded.
- The "patient" component of egg share cycles and cycles where commissioning patients/couples receive treatment as well as technically donating their eggs/embryos in surrogacy, are included, as are cycles of all donor egg/embryo recipients.
- Only donor egg recipient cycles in the 24-month monitoring period following the donor egg collection will be included. Births from the donor egg recipient cycle are attributed to the donor egg recipient (including surrogate patients) rather than to the egg donor so each recipient will be treated as if the egg collection came from them. This means that, in those cases where a single batch of donated eggs is split between multiple recipients, the portion of eggs received by each recipient is considered to be a single different egg collection for that recipient.
To note for frozen egg/embryo treatments:

- For frozen eggs or embryos, the age group used is that of the patient at egg collection/embryo creation not at the time of treatment.
- Subsequent thaw cycles are excluded from the success rate calculation from the point at which a birth is achieved in the case where the cumulative cycle takes place at the same centre.
- Where an egg or embryo is moved from one centre to another, subsequent thaw cycles are excluded from the cumulative success rate calculation from the point at which it is moved.
- Thawing of eggs or embryos in a single thaw cycle that originate from multiple egg collections are excluded.
- Egg collections where all eggs are frozen are included if there is a subsequent creation of embryos from the frozen eggs for treatment within 24 months of the initial egg collection.
- Egg collections where all embryos are frozen are included if there is a subsequent treatment using the embryos within 24 months of the initial egg collection.

The following have been excluded:

- Any frozen egg or embryo treatments or fresh donor egg treatments where it is not possible to link the thawed eggs or embryos or fresh donor eggs to the originating egg collection.
- Any eggs or embryos transferred into the centre from another clinic where the originating egg collection took place.

**Multiple births**
Number of multiple birth events divided by the total number of birth events, multiplied by 100, for cycles started within the 12-month time period. Birth events include any live birth or neonatal death.

Included in the calculation:

- All treatments IVF and ICSI, PGD, PGS, surrogacy
- Stimulated and unstimulated cycles
- Cycles using donated gametes or embryos
- Fresh and frozen cycles

Displayed:

- Number of birth events
- Calculated multiple birth rate
- Confidence interval for each age band
- National average for each age band for comparison and noted if clinic is consistent or above/below national average
- Split into three age bands: “under 38”, “38 and over”, and “all ages”
Births per donor insemination treatment
Number of birth events divided by the number of DI treatments, multiplied by 100.

Included in the calculation:

- All donor insemination treatments for the time period stated.
- Stimulated and unstimulated.
- Single and multiple births if live birth or neonatal death.

Displayed:

- Number of DI treatments
- Calculated birth rate
- Confidence interval for each age band
- National average for each age band for comparison and noted if clinic is consistent or above/below national average
- Split into three age bands: “under 38”, “38 and over”, and “all ages”.
- Current age bands will be available in detailed statistics section

Pregnancies per IUI treatment
Number of pregnancies divided by the number of IUI with partner sperm treatments, multiplied by 100. These figures cover a calendar year because they are taken from annual returns.

Included in the calculation:

- All IUI with partner sperm treatments for the time period stated
- Stimulated and unstimulated cycles
- Single and multiple pregnancies

Displayed:

- Number of IUI with partner sperm treatments
- Calculated pregnancy rate
- Confidence interval for each age band
- National average for each age band for comparison and noted if clinic is consistent or above/below national average
- Split into three age bands: “under 38”, “38 and over”, and “all ages”
- Current age bands will be available in a detailed statistics section
2. **Detailed statistics search criteria**

Before getting to the detailed statistics pages users will need to make a number of choices on what they want to view.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Births - July 2014 to June 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Births - July 2013 to June 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Births - July 2012 to June 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aggregated births over 3 years -July 2012 to June 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment type:</th>
<th>IVF and ICSI</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IVF only</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ICSI only</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Natural (no stimulation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PGD (Preimplantation genetic diagnosis)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PGS (Preimplantation genetic screening)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>IVM (In-vitro maturation)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Donor Insemination</td>
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<td></td>
<td>IUI with partner</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group:</th>
<th>Under 35</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>35-37</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>38-39</td>
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<td>40-42</td>
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<td>43-44</td>
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<td>Over 44</td>
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<td>All ages</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source:</th>
<th>Fresh embryos, patient’s eggs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frozen embryos, patient’s eggs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fresh embryos, donated eggs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frozen embryos, donated eggs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
These choices will be restricted to what data is available for each clinic. If a clinic has not done PGD it will not appear in the list of options.

What is shown is dependent on the options chosen in four steps, with each step taken progressively narrowing down the detailed data eventually displayed.

**Step 1 – Choose the time period**
This determines what treatment types and rates are available (only pregnancy rates are available in the most recent year).

**Step 2 – Choose the treatment type**

- **IVF & ICSI** – At this level of selection these could be cycles using fresh or frozen embryos created from either patient or donor eggs where either IVF or ICSI or both were used to create the embryos. The choice of egg source and type of embryo can be narrowed down in step 4 (Source). For cycles using fresh embryos created from fresh patient eggs, stimulation was recorded on the treatment form.

- **IVF only** – At this level of selection these are cycles using fresh embryos only created from either patient or donor eggs where only IVF was used to create the embryos. The choice of egg source can be narrowed down in step 4 (Source). For cycles using fresh embryos created from fresh patient eggs, stimulation was recorded on the treatment form.

- **ICSI only** – At this level of selection these are cycles using fresh embryos only created from either patient or donor eggs where only ICSI was used to create the embryos. The choice of egg source can be narrowed down in step 4 (Source). For cycles using fresh embryos created from fresh patient eggs, stimulation was recorded on the treatment form.

- **Natural** – These are fresh patient egg cycles where no stimulation was recorded. These may be IVF or ICSI treatments.

- **PGD** – At this level of selection these could be cycles using fresh or frozen embryos where the fresh patient eggs used to create them underwent PGD screening as recorded on the treatment form. The choice of embryo type can be narrowed down in step 4 (Source). These embryos may have been created using IVF or ICSI in a stimulated or natural cycle.

- **PGS** – At this level of selection these could be cycles using fresh or frozen embryos where the fresh patient eggs used to create them underwent PGS screening as recorded on the treatment form. The choice of embryo type can be narrowed down in step 4 (Source). These embryos may have been created using IVF or ICSI in a stimulated or natural cycle.

- **IVM** – These are fresh patient’s egg cycles where IVM has been recorded on the treatment form. These may be IVF or ICSI.

- **DI** – At this level of selection these could be stimulated DI cycles, unstimulated DI cycles or both. The choice of cycle type can be narrowed down in step 4 (Source).

- **IUI with partner** – At this level of selection these could be stimulated IUI cycles, unstimulated IUI cycles or both. The choice of cycle type can be narrowed down in step 4 (Source).

Some of the categories are exclusive. If a treatment is in natural, PGD, PGS or IVM it will not be included in the IVF, ICSI or IVF & ICSI counts.
Step 3 – Choose the age group
For all treatments, the age group is dependent on the age at egg collection except in frozen embryo or donor egg cases where it was not possible to link the embryo transfer to egg collection so the age at embryo transfer was used.

Step 4 – Choose the source
For generic IVF treatments, this is where the choice of patient or donor eggs used to create either fresh or frozen embryos can be made. For treatments using DI and IUI with partner sperm, this is where the choice of stimulated, unstimulated or all cycles can be made. Actual options available are dependent upon the specific treatment type chosen (see step 2 above).

3. Detailed statistics presented

At a glance
This shows counts of:

- Treatment cycles started
- Treatment cycles reaching egg collection
- Treatment cycles reaching embryo transfer

and proportion of embryo transfers at each denomination of embryos transferred (eg, elective single embryo transfer, non-elective single embryo transfer, two embryo transfer and three embryo transfer), together with the average number of embryos transferred in cycles reaching embryo transfer.

Cycle details
This shows counts of:

- Treatment cycles cancelled before eggs were collected broken down by the reason for cancellation
- Treatment cycles cancelled between egg collection and embryo transfer broken down by the reason for cancellation
- Embryos transferred in all treatment cycles together with the proportion of embryo transfers where blastocysts were transferred

Based on the selections made in Steps 1–4 above, users are given the choice of selecting the birth rate calculation based on:

- Pregnancies and births per treatment cycle, or
- Pregnancies and births per embryo transferred.

Pregnancies and births per treatment cycle

Pregnancies per cycle

Number of clinical pregnancies divided by the number of treatment cycles, multiplied by 100, for cycles started within the 12-month time period.

Displayed:

- Number of pregnancies achieved from the number of cycles started
- Calculated pregnancy rate
• Confidence interval (the ‘Reliability range’) around the rate
• National average for comparison and noted if clinic is consistent or above/below national average

Live births per cycle
Number of birth events divided by the number of treatment cycles, multiplied by 100, for cycles started within the 12-month time period. Birth events include any live birth or neonatal death.

Displayed:
• Number of birth events achieved from the number of cycles started
• Calculated live birth rate
• Confidence interval (the ‘Reliability range’) around the rate
• National average for comparison and noted if clinic is consistent or above/below national average

Singleton live births per cycle
Number of singleton birth events divided by the number of treatment cycles, multiplied by 100, for cycles started within the 12-month time period. Birth events include any live birth or neonatal death.

Displayed:
• Number of singleton birth events achieved from the number of cycles started
• Calculated live birth rate
• Confidence interval (the ‘Reliability range’) around the rate
• National average for comparison and noted if clinic is consistent or above/below national average

Multiple live births per cycle
Number of multiple birth events divided by the number of treatment cycles, multiplied by 100, for cycles started within the 12-month time period. Birth events include any live birth or neonatal death.

Displayed:
• Number of multiple birth events achieved from the number of cycles started
• Calculated live birth rate
• Confidence interval (the ‘Reliability range’) around the rate
• National average for comparison and noted if clinic is consistent or above/below national average
Live births per egg collection

Number of birth events divided by the number of treatment cycles reaching egg collection, multiplied by 100, for cycles started within the 12-month time period. Birth events include any live birth or neonatal death.

Displayed:
- Number of birth events achieved from the number of egg collections
- Calculated live birth rate
- Confidence interval (the ‘Reliability range’) around the rate
- National average for comparison and noted if clinic is consistent or above/below national average

Live births per embryo transfer

Number of birth events divided by the number of treatment cycles reaching embryo transfer, multiplied by 100, for cycles started within the 12-month time period. Birth events include any live birth or neonatal death.

Displayed:
- Number of birth events achieved from the number of embryo transfers
- Calculated live birth rate
- Confidence interval (the ‘Reliability range’) around the rate
- National average for comparison and noted if clinic is consistent or above/below national average

Pregnancies and births per embryo transferred

Pregnancies per embryo transferred

Number of clinical pregnancies divided by the total number of embryos transferred, multiplied by 100, in cycles started within the 12-month time period.

Displayed:
- Number of pregnancies achieved from the number of embryos transferred
- Calculated pregnancy rate
- Confidence interval (the ‘Reliability range’) around the rate
- National average for comparison and noted if clinic is consistent or above/below national average

Live births per embryo transferred

Number of birth events divided by the total number of embryos transferred, multiplied by 100, in cycles started within the 12-month time period. Birth events include any live birth or neonatal death.

Displayed:
Number of birth events achieved from the number of embryos transferred
Calculated live birth rate
Confidence interval (the ‘Reliability range’) around the rate
National average for comparison and noted if clinic is consistent or above/below national average

**Singleton live births per embryo transferred**

Number of singleton birth events divided by the total number of embryos transferred, multiplied by 100, in cycles started within the 12-month time period. Birth events include any live birth or neonatal death.

Displayed:

- Number of singleton birth events achieved from the number of embryos transferred
- Calculated live birth rate
- Confidence interval (the ‘Reliability range’) around the rate
- National average for comparison and noted if clinic is consistent or above/below national average

**Multiple live births per embryo transferred**

Number of multiple birth events divided by the total number of embryos transferred, multiplied by 100, in cycles started within the 12-month time period. Birth events include any live birth or neonatal death.

Displayed:

- Number of multiple birth events achieved from the number of embryos transferred
- Calculated live birth rate
- Confidence interval (the ‘Reliability range’) around the rate
- National average for comparison and noted if clinic is consistent or above/below national average

**Patient details**

The proportion of patients treated by age group together with the average duration of infertility of patients treated at the clinic compared to that nationally.

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**4. Disclosure control of clinic data**

Clinic data for age categories where success rates would be based on small values are not shown in either the headline data of the main profile page or in the detailed data except for whether the rates are above, consistent with or below the national average. As much relevant data as possible is shown while still trying to prevent inadvertently compromising patient identity.

Five levels of disclosure control have been applied:
1. Data is not shown for a rate in any age or treatment category if the number of treatment cycles carried out is between 1 and 9.

2. IF, for a particular rate in any treatment category and reporting period, only one age category is affected by level 1 disclosure control,

   THEN, data for the next highest available older age category (e.g., either 38-39, 40-42, 43-44 or over 44) is also not shown to prevent the data in the single age category redacted by level 1 from being reconstructed by summing the raw data from the remaining mutually exclusive age categories and subtracting this from the raw data of the ‘All ages’ category. If there are no other older age groups available, for example if no treatments were carried out for any of the other older age groups, the ‘All ages’ group is not shown instead of not showing one of the younger [under 35, 35-37] age groups.

3. IF, for any rate (e.g., pregnancy rate per cycle), in any age category (e.g., 42-43) of a treatment category (e.g., ‘IVF only’ or ICSI only) that is a subcomponent of a larger category (e.g., ‘IVF or ICSI’), only one subcomponent treatment category is affected after applying level 1 and level 2 disclosure control,

   THEN, data for the relevant rate and age category in the previously unaffected subcomponent treatment category is also not shown to prevent reconstruction of data redacted by level 1 and 2 disclosure control (e.g., if only the ‘IVF only’ category is not shown after applying level 1 and level 2 disclosure control, then the ‘ICSI only’ category is also not shown [and vice versa] in level 3 disclosure control, keeping the ‘IVF or ICSI’ category intact.

4. IF, for any rate in any age and treatment category in an individual reporting year (e.g., 2013 Q2, 2014 Q2 or 2015 Q2) that is a subcomponent of a wider reporting period (e.g., the 2013 Q2 to 2015 Q2 3-year aggregate), only one individual reporting year is affected after applying level 1, 2 and 3 disclosure control,

   THEN, data for the relevant rate, age and treatment category in the wider reporting period is also not shown to prevent reconstruction of data redacted by level 1, 2 and 3 disclosure control.

5. IF, for any corresponding rate shown in both the 2015 Q2 headline data (main profile page) and the 2015 Q2 detailed data, only one of the subcomponent age categories in the detailed data (e.g., ‘38-39’, ‘40-42’, ‘43-44’ or ‘Over 44’) that are part of a wider age category in the headline data (e.g., ‘38 and over’) is affected after applying level 1, 2, 3 and 4 disclosure control,

   THEN, data for the wider age group in the headline data is shown and an additional subcomponent age category in the detailed data is also not shown to prevent reconstruction of detailed data redacted by level 1, 2, 3 and 4 disclosure control. In this way, as much of the headline data as possible is shown.

Levels 1 to 4 of data disclosure for the detailed data and levels 1 to 2 for the headline data are applied first. Then, level 5 disclosure control is applied to detailed data.