

Email chain - internal

From:

Sent: 11 January 2016 16:35

To: Press Office

Subject: Changes to fertility services

For information, please see below press statement with regards to our fertility services,

Kind regards

Changes to fertility services

Fertility services provided by North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust will change at the end of March.

This means that licensed fertility treatments will no longer be provided, however the trust will still be providing some general infertility treatments. The trust will be working with other service providers to look at the way services are provided in the future and to ensure that patients continue to receive appropriate treatment.

The decision has been made reluctantly after a comprehensive review of the service provided at the University Hospital of Hartlepool's assisted reproduction unit, which is unable to recruit enough embryologists to continue to provide the current service safely.

A staff consultation has begun and every effort will be made to redeploy the staff within the trust.

The trust will be working with the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority over the coming months. Patients are being informed of the changes and they will be supported while they are transferred to another unit of their choice.

The service began in the early 1990's before moving to the new refurbished unit in 2008. It provides on average 250 cycles of licensed fertility treatments each year.

Medical director David Emerton said: "This decision is not a reflection of the quality of the service which has been provided for a number of years by the trust. We understand that this decision will be disappointing for patients. We have made every effort for some time to recruit, however we cannot continue to provide all aspects of the current service safely due to an inability to recruit embryologists."

Ends

Kind regards

Communications Officer | North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
www.nth.nhs.uk



From: Press Office
Sent: 11 January 2016 17:03
To: Nick Jones
Cc: Juliet Tizzard
Subject: FW: Changes to fertility services

Nick

Do you know anything about the below (which has just come into the press inbox)? Is it true we're working with them?

Epicentre says the centre closed in 1997, so I'm not sure who the current inspector is!

Thanks

From: Nick Jones
Sent: 11 January 2016 17:08
To: Press Office;
Cc: Juliet Tizzard;
Subject: RE: Changes to fertility services

Thanks

I didn't know its plans for closing but I expect we do

It's called Assisted Reproduction Unit (ARU), University Hospital of Hartlepool (031) – I think the one that closed was a predecessor centre e.g. moved from IUI to T&S.

please confirm there will be an orderly closure.

Thanks,

N

From:
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2016 06:54 AM
To: Nick Jones
Subject: RE: Changes to fertility services

Hi Nick,

I wasn't aware of this development. The last contact I had with the PR was just before Christmas, when he sent me the last of his post inspection monitoring items, so I think it might be a surprise to the centre staff.

I'll contact the PR when I'm home from inspection.

Kind regards

Email chain - between PR and Inspector

From:

Sent: 13 January 2016 14:40

To: Mostafa Hany (RVW) Obs & Gynae

Cc: Emerton David (RVW) Medical Director; Macleod Iona (RVW) Obs & Gynae

Subject: HFEA correspondence

Dear Mr Mostafa

Please find enclosed copy correspondence from Julie Gillon, Chief Operating Officer and David Emerton, Trust Medical Director.

With best wishes

From: Mostafa Hany

Sent: 13 January 2016 16:03

To:

Subject: HFEA correspondence

Dear,

I hope you are fine and well.

I have received this e mail today from the COO and the MD.

I am very sorry to inform you that the trust has announced earlier this week that they would like to stop offering complete IVF treatment service in the ARU and they are currently negotiating with the commissioners and the other local centres the possibility of doing Satellite / Transport IVF that does not require the presence of an embryologist.

I hope you would be able to advice about the HFEA requirements in similar situations and what is the right way of dealing with the stored gametes / embryos.

Best regards,

Hany

Mohamed Hany Mostafa

Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist.

PR of the Assisted Reproduction Unit (ARU)

University Hospitals of North Tees and Hartlepool.

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JG/AF/DHF

13 January 2015

Mr H Mostafa
Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Women and Children's Service
University Hospital of North Tees

Dear Mr Mostafa

It is with regret that following our discussion this morning and on many previous occasions I write to inform you that given the current circumstances the Trust will no longer be able to provide all licenced fertility treatments after 31 March 2016 given the risks faced within the department around recruitment and retention of suitably experienced and qualified staff.

The Trust will work closely with yourself and HFEA, along with other service providers to ensure that patients continue to receive appropriate treatment and to look at alternative service model provision for services in the future.

As you are aware from your involvement in a number of review presentations to the Executive Team over the last two years regarding difficulties in the service, the Trust has been unable to recruit and retain sufficient embryologist's to continue to run the service safely.

This is in no way a reflection of the quality of the service that has been provided by the unit.

I request that you work closely with Dr Iona MacLeod and HFEA as person responsible (PR) to enable the Trust to fulfil HFEA requirements.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely



Julie Gillon
Chief Operating Officer/Deputy Chief Executive



David Emerton
Medical Director

Copy: Dr I MacLeod