

A summary of publicly-funded services for fertility preservation for medical reasons in selected countries

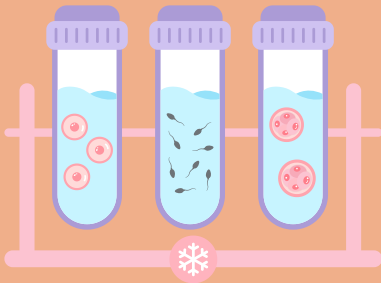
What has HIQA done?

We have published a summary of publicly-funded fertility preservation services for medical reasons in 10 selected countries.



What is fertility preservation?

Fertility preservation is the freezing (cryopreservation) of eggs, sperm, embryos or reproductive tissue, so a person may have biological children in the future.



Medical reasons for using fertility preservation services include having a medical condition or receiving medical treatment which impacts fertility.

What did we look at?

We reviewed documents on publicly-funded fertility preservation services in 10 countries: Australia, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Northern Ireland, Portugal, Scotland, Sweden and Wales.



For each country, we describe which fertility preservation services are publicly funded, who is eligible for these services, and further considerations for services — for example, governance, information provision and ethics.

What did we find?

- Freezing of sperm and eggs is publicly funded in all 10 countries, and freezing of embryos is publicly funded in seven of the selected countries.
- People undergoing cancer treatment are offered fertility preservation in all of the selected countries.
- Publicly-funded freezing of sperm and eggs is typically offered to adults and adolescents who are post puberty.
- Freezing of ovarian tissue and testicular tissue is less often publicly funded, and may be offered to particular groups of people.

What next?

This report was requested by the Department of Health to support the development of a national fertility preservation policy for Ireland.

