MEDICAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION

ISSUED BY MEDICAL BRANCH

HEADQUARTERS UNITED KINGDOM SUPPORT COMMAND (GERMANY)

ON BEHALF OF HEADQUARTERS UNITED KINGDOM SUPPORT COMMAND (GERMANY), COMMANDER MEDICAL 1 (UK) ARMOURED DIVISION AND BRITISH FORCES GERMANY HEALTH SERVICE

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GUIDELINES ON FUNDING FOR INFERTILITY PROBLEMS IN BFG

(REVISION DATE JAN05)

Reference:

A.   BAOR MA&TI Issue No 2 Ser 3 dated 20 Jan 89.

1.   There has been no formal policy on infertility management in BFG promulgated since 1989 (Reference A) which is hereby cancelled. In part this has been due to an expectation that there would be formal guidance given from the Centre. Furthermore there has been no change in BFG Health Service (HS) policy since its' inception in 1996 in that they do not fund any form of in vitro fertilisation or any specific drug therapy which is required by patients undergoing this treatment.

2.   There have however been large turnovers of medical staff and several recent cases have identified the need for BFG HS primary care teams to understand what exactly BFG HS will fund. Currently the National Institute for Clinical Excellence is undertaking work to identify what exactly individuals should expect to receive from the NHS in terms of investigation and treatment[1]. However in the interim the following guidelines should apply in BFG.

3.   BFG HS is not funded for the provision of IVF and equivalent treatment. It does, however, support the **investigation** of infertility, which may take place in primary or secondary care settings (DGPs) for all entitled patients in BFG. It will also fund **correction of any anatomical abnormality** that may be causing infertility. It will not fund tubal or epididymal micro-surgery. Artificial Insemination by Husband (AIH) is available at the Gilead DGP for patients in BFG.

4.   **UKBCs and Form E106.** UKBCs and their dependants who wish to utilise their Form E106 are able to obtain limited **investigation/treatment** (non-DGP) of infertility whilst in Germany.

5.   **Investigation of Infertility in the UK.**   Service personnel and their dependants are not entitled to use the E106. However, the Hammersmith hospital accepts German based patients onto

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[1] NICE Scope – Fertility; Assessment and Treatment for People with Fertility Problems. 15 Jan 02.

their charity-based programme (non-NHS), which is not endorsed by the MOD. Notwithstanding, BFG HS will provide GP referral (requirement) and authorise transport by air trooper flight for patient and spouse (when indicated) because of the individual's geographical circumstance. However, no additional claims are permissible in this regard.

6. **NHS Programmes.** If a patient has embarked on investigation/treatment in the UK on a NHS programme, then BFG HS will authorise transport by air trooper flight. In addition, unit RAOs will authorise full administrative support in accordance with Annex D to SO BA(G) 3303.

7. **Non-NHS Programmes.** If a patient has embarked on investigation/treatment outside of the NHS (private or Charity based programmes) BFG HS support for patient and spouse (when indicated) is restricted to transport by air trooper flight only; no additional claims under SO BA(G) are permissible.

8. **Exceptional Cases.** In certain circumstances an individual who has had specialist treatment, that might result in infertility and has sperm stored as a precaution may be funded for infertility treatment. Such cases should be remitted via the Medical Director SHC to Director BFG HS for decision.

9. **Further Information.** Further clarification on this policy can be obtained from RO2 Clin Admin BFG HS.

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For GOC

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