



Homerton Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Homerton University Hospital
Fertility Centre
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PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Date: 04/04/2022

Dear GPs and Practice Managers,

We are writing to inform you of some extraordinary and unforeseen operational challenges within the fertility service at Homerton University Hospital, including a shortage of staff. Unfortunately, this has resulted in a delay to treatment for patients who have been referred, including those awaiting IVF.

Affected patients have been written to and should be receiving letters from us the week commencing Monday 4th April 2022. We are working hard to address these urgent challenges and anticipate that we will be able to resume a normal service at Homerton within the next 6 months. In the meantime, we are doing all that we can to find alternative solutions to ensure treatment can occur for patients sooner than that, including securing capacity at other NHS centres for Homerton patients.

We are awaiting finalisation of these plans, but have assured patients we will be back in contact with them no later than Friday 15 April with more definitive information about the next steps for their treatment. We will ensure we write to you again with an update at the same time. A letter has been sent to patients for your reference.

We know that this will be distressing news to many of our patients and that as a result you may receive queries or complaints in your practices. We have apologised for the distress caused and hope to be able to offer a more comprehensive update to both our patients and to local clinicians such as yourselves soon.

In the meantime, we are offering support to patients through our in-house counselling service. If you need to refer a patient to this service, please ask them to contact the department on 020 8510 7486/7638 Monday to Friday between 9am and 4:30pm. If you or your patients have any other queries or concerns, please email huh-tr.fertility.unit@nhs.net and where we will arrange for a member of the clinical team to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Garima Srivastava
Fertility Clinical Lead & Person Responsible (Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority)