

unfortunate reality is that IVF treatment is not cheap. We are looking at several thousands of pounds for a [cycle](#) of treatment. So what some people may be forced to do is to look overseas for treatment, where treatment can be found cheaper but of course it isn't as well regulated and there are much higher risks involved both with the actual process and the incident of multiple pregnancies which could be avoided if it was delivered effectively in the UK."

"South Norfolk though say that this isn't a blanket ending to funding IVF, there are some exemptions, people who are undergoing cancer treatments and that sort of thing, so presumably you would welcome that?"

"Absolutely, and this is quite common, where [CCG's](#) remove the funding for everybody, they do tend to retain that funding for certain sub-categories of the population; those being patients that are undergoing cancer treatment and also those patients who have for example a viral condition such as HIV where for them to actually try to have intercourse naturally would put them at risk of infection, put the child at risk of infection. So they are retaining those services for special cases, but the reality is that the general members of the public will no longer have access to that treatment, which I think is very unfair."

"Should IVF be a human right though? I mean obviously it hasn't been around, has it? It's almost like a luxury in terms of modern day healthcare compared with when the NHS was founded."

"That's very true, but you could also say that about treatment for other conditions, that you know, used to decimate the population 52 hundred years ago but now we have routine treatments for. As I said previously, it is an illness, it is a disease (classified by WHO) and my view as a healthcare professional is that we should be using all of the tools we have to effectively treat any disease or condition that's experienced by the public. That's what the NHS is for."

"Stephen Harbottle Thank you very much for coming on."

"Thank you very much."

(Please note that this interview is only available on the website, 30 days after being published).