

## Fertility problems committee meeting 20

**Date:** 17/03/2025

**Location:** Virtual via Zoom

**Minutes:** Final

Committee members present:	
Fergus Macbeth	Present for notes 1-6
Kate Brian	Present for notes 1-6
Ciaran Hannington	Present for notes 1-6
Jason Kasraie	Present for notes 1-6
Raj Mathur	Present for notes 1-6
Kevin McEleny	Present for notes 1-6
Allan Pacey	Present for notes 1-6
Maj Shabbir	Present for notes 4-6
Peter Taylor	Present for notes 5-6
Nicky Hudson	Present for notes 1-6
Guy Morris	Present for notes 1-6
Yasmin Rahman	Present for notes 5-6
Francesca Steyn	Present for notes 1-6

In attendance:		
Maija Kallioinen	Topic Lead	Present for notes 1-6
Katie Tuddenham	Project Manager	Present for notes 1-6
Odette Megnin-Viggars	Senior Systematic Reviewer	Present for notes 1-6
Aye Paing	Technical Analyst	Present for notes 1-6
Laura Berg	Technical Analyst	Present for notes 1-6
Rachel Connolly	Technical Analyst	Present for notes 1-6
Paul Jacklin	Health Economics Adviser	Present for notes 1-6
Alexandra Bonnon	Health Economist	Present for notes 1-6
Stephen Murphy	Clinical Adviser	Present for notes 1-6
Sarah Palombella	Senior Medical Editor	Present for notes 1-6
Philip Williams	Resource Impact Business Analyst	Present for notes 1-6
Jonathan Benger	Chief Medical Officer, Deputy Chief Executive and Interim Director of the Centre for Guidelines	Present for notes 1-4 (first item in note 4 only)
Eric Power	Deputy Director of the Centre for Guidelines	Present for notes 1-4 (first item in note 4 only)
Louisa Regan	Implementation Support Manager	Present for notes 1-6
Observers:		

Rachel Cutting	HFEA Adviser	Present for notes 1-6
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<b>Apologies</b>	
Stuart Lavery	Guideline Committee member
Bethan Shoemark-Spear	Guideline Committee member

<b>1. Welcome and objectives for the meeting</b>				
<p>The Chair welcomed the committee members and attendees to the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the fertility guideline update.</p> <p>The Chair informed the committee that apologies had been received as noted above.</p> <p>The Chair outlined the objectives of the meeting which included reviewing the batch 2 draft guideline and research recommendations.</p>				
<b>2. Confirmation of matter under discussion, and declarations of interest</b>				
<p>The Chair confirmed that, for the purpose of managing conflicts of interest, the matter under discussion was fertility problems.</p> <p>FM reminded the group that MS and KM's contributions for varicocele will be limited to points of fact, given their conflicts of interest in this area. They will not give opinions on the recommendations for varicocele.</p> <p>The Chair asked everyone to verbally declare any interests that have risen since the last meeting. One new interests were declared (see table below).</p>				
Name	Job title, organisation	Declarations of Interest, date declared	Type of interest	Decision taken
Ciaran Hannington	Committee member	<p>I along with my co-founder have launched an online support platform form for men facing fertility challenges, named, NeXYs Fertility Ltd. Here is a brief description of the platform.</p> <p>NeXys is a professional digital platform focused on supporting men experiencing fertility challenges. It provides access to expert-led resources including support groups, educational content, and wellbeing programs. The platform aims to improve awareness, education, and engagement around male fertility, promoting informed decision-making and holistic support for</p>	<p>Direct</p> <p>Non-financial professional or personal interest</p>	<p>Non-specific</p> <p>Declare and participate.</p> <p>Rationale: Providing support to other men by providing access to education and support resources is not a conflict with the development of the guideline.</p> <p>If investment occurs this will be considered separately as a financial interest.</p>

		<p>individuals and their partners.</p> <p>I have yet to take any financial gain from the platform, but may do soon. Additionally, we are looking for investment. However, this had not occurred yet.</p>		
Nicky Hudson	Committee member	<p>I have been invited to give a keynote talk at the Australia and New Zealand Fertility Societies annual conference. The talk covers egg donation and expanded carrier screening. The conference and one of the panel discussions is partly sponsored by Merck, though I won't personally receive remuneration. My travel and accommodation will be reimbursed.</p>	<p>Direct</p> <p>Non-financial professional or personal interest</p>	<p>Non-specific.</p> <p>Declare and participate.</p> <p>Rationale: Talk is not specific to evidence reviews covered by the update. No personal payment.</p>
Nicky Hudson	Committee member	<p>I have been invited to speak at the UK Fertility 2026 conference on the topic of expanded carrier screening in gamete donation. My travel and accommodation is paid for but I will not be paid for speaking.</p>	<p>Direct</p> <p>Non-financial professional or personal interest</p>	<p>Non-specific.</p> <p>Declare and participate.</p> <p>Rationale: Talk is not specific to evidence reviews covered by the update. No personal payment.</p>
Nicky Hudson	Committee member	<p>I have been invited to speak at the first scientific symposium of the 'Women's Health, Couples' Health' Research Programme, INSERM, France, to be held in Paris on November 24-25, 2025.</p> <p>I have been asked to speak on the importance of humanities and social science research in the field of reproductive health. My travel and accommodation will be paid for.</p>	<p>Direct</p> <p>Non-financial professional or personal interest</p>	<p>Non-specific.</p> <p>Declare and participate.</p> <p>Rationale: Talk is generic and not specific to any particular product or intervention. No personal payment.</p>

### 3. Minutes of last meeting

The Chair asked the committee to confirm the minutes of GC18&19. The committee confirmed the minutes were accurate.

### 4. Morning presentations and discussions

The Chair introduced Jonathan Benger, Chief Medical Officer, Deputy Chief Executive and Interim Director of the Centre for Guidelines, who spoke to the committee on the delay to batch 1 consultation.

<p>The Chair introduced Odette Megnin-Viggars, Senior Systematic Reviewer, and Rachel Connolly, Technical Analyst, who presented the draft research recommendations. The committee agreed on the draft research recommendations for batch 2.</p> <p>The Chair introduced Maija Kallioinen, Topic Lead, who led a review of the batch 2 guideline recommendations drafted to date. The committee discussed amendments and additions to the draft.</p>
<p><b>5. Afternoon presentations and discussions</b></p>
<p>The Chair opened discussion for the lay member forum.</p> <p>The Chair re-introduced Maija Kallioinen, Topic Lead, who continued the review of the batch 2 guideline recommendations drafted to date. The committee discussed amendments and additions to the draft.</p>
<p><b>6. Any other business</b></p>
<p>MK updated the committee on NICE's publication policy and on next steps.</p> <p>The Chair closed the meeting at 15.30.</p>

**Date of next meeting:** TBA