

Fertility problems committee meeting 22

Date: 11/11/2025

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Minutes: Final

Committee members present:

Fergus Macbeth	Present for notes 1-6
Ciaran Hannington	Present until 4.25pm
Jason Kasraie	Present for notes 1-6
Raj Mathur	Present for notes 1-6
Allan Pacey	Present until 4.30pm
Maj Shabbir	Present until 4.05pm
Nicky Hudson	Present for notes 1-6
Guy Morris	Present for notes 1-6
Yasmin Rahman	Present 11.15am-12.25pm; and 3pm-5pm
Bethan Shoemark-Spear	Present for notes 1-6
Kevin McEleny	Present for notes 1-6
Francesca Steyn	Present until 1.30pm

In attendance:

Maija Kallioinen	Topic Lead	Present for notes 1-6
Katie Tuddenham	Project Manager	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
Philip Williams	Resource Impact Business Analyst	Present for notes 1-6
Louisa Regan	Implementation Support Manager	Present for note 1
Eileen Taylor	Technical Analyst	Present for notes 1-6
Sarah Palombella	Senior Guidance Content Adviser	Present for notes 1-6
Sara Buckner	Senior Topic Adviser	Present 10.30am-11.15am
Observers:		
Rachel Cutting	HFEA Adviser	Present 10.00am-11.30am; and 3pm-5pm

Apologies

Stuart Lavery	Guideline Committee member
Peter Taylor	Guideline Committee member
Kate Brian	Guideline Committee member

1. Welcome and objectives for the meeting

The Chair welcomed the committee members and attendees to the 22nd meeting of the fertility guideline update.

The Chair informed the committee that apologies had been received as noted above.

The Chair outlined the objectives of the meeting which included an update on the guideline and next steps.

2. Confirmation of matter under discussion, and declarations of interest

The Chair confirmed that, for the purpose of managing conflicts of interest, the matter under discussion was fertility problems.

The Chair asked everyone to verbally declare any interests that have risen since the last meeting. The following were declared (see table below).

Name	Job title, organisation	Declarations of Interest, date declared	Type of interest	Decision taken
Bethan Shoemark-Spear	Committee member	District nurse, Cwm taf Morgannwg health board	Direct Financial	Non-specific Declare and participate. Rationale: Salaried employment in the NHS.
Ciaran Hannington	Committee member	We have received investment from a single private investor for NeXYs Fertility LTD. The male support platform I co-founded in April.	Direct Financial	Specific Partial exclusion. The Committee member will withdraw from discussion of recommendations on peer support. Rationale: Peer support is part of the committee member's business activity, so this precludes him from discussion of recommendations related to this.
Kevin McEleny	Committee member	I am on the NIHR AFFINITY study that is seeking to study the efficacy of fertility add-ons. At the recent workshop in Birmingham, the attendees dinner was supported by IBSA.	Direct Non-financial	Specific Declare and participate. Rationale: The study has not yet started and is outside the timeframe for this guideline.
Allan Pacey	Committee member	Trustee of Progress Educational Trust This has already been declared and is on the register but it has come to an end (October 2024). I have however accepted a role on the Progress Educational Trust Advisory Board, but I will declare this separately. The register should be	Direct Non-financial	Non-specific Declare and participate. Rationale: End to an existing declaration.

		updated with this end date.		
Allan Pacey	Committee member	Progress Educational Trust Advisory Board This commenced in January 2025 after I stepped down as a Trustee and involved being an advisory to the charity.	Direct Non-financial	Non-specific Declare and participate. Rationale: Acting as an advisor to a charity is not a conflict with development of the guideline.
Allan Pacey	Committee member	Science Media Centre Advisory Board This involves giving advice to the Science Media Centre and is ongoing.	Direct Non-financial	Non-specific Declare and participate. Rationale: Acting on an advisory board is not a conflict with development of the guideline.
Maj Shabbir	Committee member	Offered sponsorship to attend a fertility meeting in January 2026 by testHim/LogixX Fertility. The company is paying for travel, accommodation and registration, and possibly a dinner, to attend annual Fertility Conference 2026 in Edinburgh. No personal payment or consultation fee, no talks given.	Direct Financial	Non-specific Declare and participate Rationale: Sponsorship to attend conference is reasonable. The member is not giving a talk and no personal payment will be received.
Guy Morris	Committee member	I have been appointed to the NIHR steering committee for the AFFINITY study in role of chair.	Direct Non-financial	Specific Declare and participate. Rationale: The study has not yet started and is outside the timeframe for this guideline.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The Chair asked the committee to confirm the minutes of GC21. The committee confirmed the minutes were accurate.

4. Morning presentations and discussions

The Chair introduced Maija Kallioinen, Topic Lead, who gave a presentation summarising themes from the comments received at consultation.

MK led a discussion of the consultation comments pertaining to each section of the guideline. The committee considered the comments and made edits to the guideline document where appropriate.

5. Afternoon presentations and discussions

The Chair introduced the lay member forum.

The Chair introduced Sarah Palombella, Senior Guidance Content Designer, who gave an update on visual summary for committee feedback and information for the public.

The Chair re-introduced Maija Kallioinen, Topic Lead, who continued to lead the committee through the comments received at consultation pertaining to each section of the guideline.

6. Any other business

There being none, the Chair closed the meeting at 17.00.

Date of next meeting: 14/11/2025