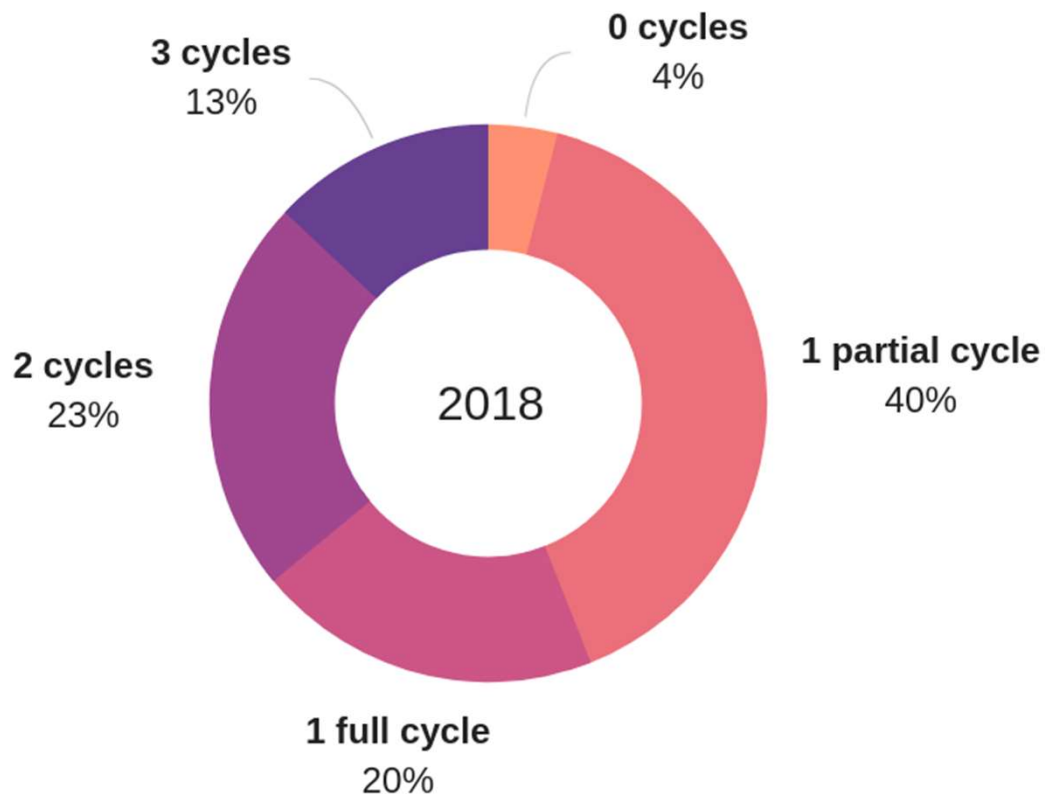


IVF Cycle Provision

The NICE fertility guideline says women under 40 should be offered
3 FULL cycles of IVF

This is what CCGs actually offer:



What is a full cycle?

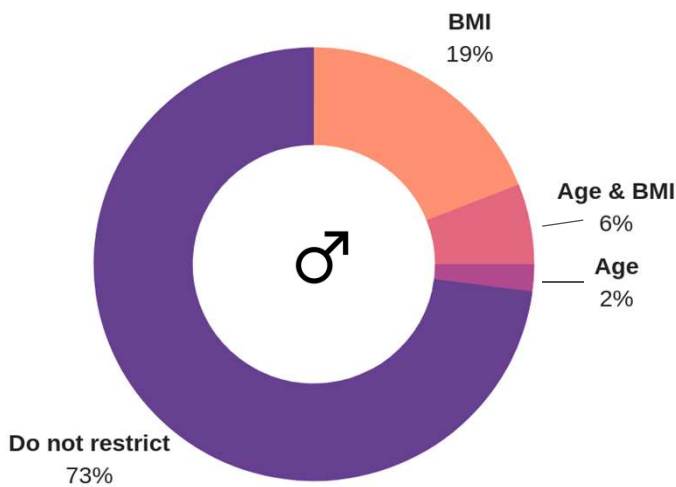
A **full cycle** should include one episode of ovarian stimulation and the transfer of **any resultant fresh and frozen embryo(s)**. This is to enable people to have **multiple attempts at achieving a pregnancy** with each cycle.

Alongside not offering the recommended number of cycles, many CCGs now have **additional access criteria**

These include:

Childlessness

Department of Health endorsed guidelines state that IVF services should be offered to couples if at least one partner has no living child. However, 91% of CCGs go against these guidelines and restrict provision by only offering IVF services to couples where both partners have no living children.



Male age and BMI

CCGs are starting to use the age and BMI of the male partner to limit who is eligible to access fertility treatment.

Some CCGs do this even when it is the female partner who has a fertility problem.

Anti-Müllerian Hormone (AMH)

AMH is a marker for ovarian (egg) reserve and is assessed by a blood test. AMH is in the NICE guideline as predictor of ovarian response, but NOT as a predictor of the chance of having a baby through IVF. Nevertheless a quarter of CCGs now use AMH to restrict access.

