

IVF clinics in Scotland to reopen

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) has given the four NHS IVF Centres in Scotland approval to reopen.

Clinics are now able to work with NHS Scotland to ensure all services are able to resume in a safe and timely way.

Public Health Minister Joe FitzPatrick said: "This is extremely welcome news and will provide much needed comfort and reassurance to worried patients across Scotland.

"The Scottish Government wants to reassure patients that we are working with the four IVF centres, alongside the leading patient stakeholder group Fertility Network, to ensure all services resume in a safe and timely way.

"I also want to reassure those women who are close to the upper age limit for NHS IVF, that they will not be disadvantaged and subject to a clinical assessment, they will still continue to receive treatment.

"Scotland has the most generous and fairest NHS IVF treatment in the UK and we want to ensure clinics are able to contact patients as quickly as we can safely do so."

Chief Executive of the Fertility Network Gwenda Burns said: "This has been an extremely difficult and distressing time for patients and we welcome the news that clinics have approval to resume services by the HFEA.

“We are working closely with clinics and the Scottish Government to ensure that treatment can start as soon as possible while providing a safe service to patients with all the necessary precautions in place.”