TEMPLATE

**Advice for patients having treatment for male infertility at UCH – Modification to therapy in light of Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**

The current global Coronavirus (also known as COVID-19) outbreak and subsequent national guidance to socially distance and reduce unnecessary travel has severely disrupted the provision of routine clinic services. This may include dispensing of hospital-only prescriptions.

Injections for the treatment of male infertility (gonadotrophins) are usually dispensed from hospital and include the following:

* Gonasi
* Menopur
* Merional
* Bemfola

Over the coming weeks, it may be necessary to suspend routine prescribing and collection of fertility-related therapy, including gonadotrophins. Each hospital department will take a decision on this, based on their clinical circumstances. If restrictions are applied, it is unclear how long these may apply. Such decisions are not taken lightly and we are aware that this may cause significant anxiety for you and your partner.

We suggest that you continue the fertility injections until the prescription has been used. Without the injections for fertility, your testosterone levels may fall. Whilst this is not life-threatening, you may notice symptoms including tiredness and reduced sex-drive. We have suggested that you switch over to a testosterone gel replacement in the interim. Whilst testosterone treatment does not improve fertility, any negative effect is temporary and using the ‘gel’ version will minimise this effect.

We suggest you either make an appointment or forward this to your GP to allow them to prescribe a testosterone gel in one of the following daily formats (depending on availability):

* Testogel sachet 50mg (5g sachet) x1 applied to skin
* Testogel pump
  + Suggested dose - 2 pumps (40.5mg)
  + 1 pump equivalent to 20.25 mg testosterone
  + Maximum dose 4 pumps (80.1mg)
* Tostran 2% pump
  + Suggested dose - 4 pumps (40 mg)
  + 1 pump equivalent to 10mg testosterone
  + Maximum dose 8 pumps (80mg)
* Testavan pump
  + Suggested dose - 2 pumps (46mg)
  + 1 pump equivalent to 23mg testosterone
  + Maximum dose 3 pumps (69mg)

Please read instructions regarding application.

Please ensure the area the gel is applied to is covered to avoid cross-contamination with others.

Whilst there are other testosterone formats, including injections, which may be more suited - we suggest you persist with one of the above formulations if possible. We envisage this to be a temporary measure only.

Monitoring - as part of your fertility treatment you would be having regular blood tests which include a measurement of testosterone, a full blood count and a prostate blood test (PSA). If there is a concern about a raised blood count, we suggest a full blood count at 3 months after starting testosterone (note to GP - aiming for a haematocrit <0.54).

In the event that you require further information please contact your local department. We would appreciate limiting requests to urgent enquires only at this time.