

## Top Fertility Treatments Revealed As Over 51,000 Brits Seek Fertility Expertise During Past Year

### *Global fertility experts predict upcoming treatment trends for 2017*

- Most in-demand fertility treatment in UK is intrauterine insemination (IUI), followed by In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF)
- Artificial insemination procedure saw the biggest increase in enquiries over the last 6 months, up 46%\*
- Medical tourism hotspots for Brits seeking fertility treatment abroad are Spain, Czech Republic, Turkey, Ireland and Greece - where patients can save as much as £2,539 on IVF
- Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD) set to be the fastest growing fertility trend for 2017, according to expert survey
- Experts also revealed those aged 35-44 are most likely age group seeking treatment, although listed patients are as old as 56

**Date TBC:** The top ten most in-demand fertility treatments for UK patients have been revealed as those seeking fertility expertise reached 51,266 over the past year, according to private healthcare search engine [WhatClinic.com](http://WhatClinic.com).

The number one fertility treatment in 2016 was intrauterine insemination (IUI), a procedure which separates fast-moving sperm from the more sluggish or non-moving sperm which is then placed in the womb close to the time of ovulation. 7,459 patients visited the site seeking IUI in the UK in the past twelve months, with the treatment costing £877, on average, in the UK.

In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) came in as the second most in-demand treatment and has an average price tag of £2,300. There were 5,562 visits to the clinic comparison site for this high-profile procedure across UK clinics in 2016. At number three, fertility tests saw an increase of 7% in enquiries in the past six months, and cost £310 on average.

Egg donation and egg freezing round up the top five treatments, at fourth and fifth spots on the list, with 2,659 and 2,898 patients searching on WhatClinic.com respectively. Artificial insemination, at number six, saw the biggest overall increase in enquiries, up 46% in just the past six months, with an average price tag of £1,817.

<b>Most in-demand Fertility treatments in the UK</b> <b>based on WhatClinic.com enquiries from Brits to UK clinics in 2016</b>		
Treatment	Traffic of visitors to UK pages in 2016	Average starting price UK**
Overall fertility searches	51,266	n/a
UI - Intrauterine Insemination	7,459	£877
VF - In Vitro Fertilisation	5,562	£2,300
Fertility Test	4,859	£310
Egg Donor	2,659	£2,654
Egg Freezing	2,898	£2,025
AI - Artificial Insemination	1,699	£1,817
CSI - Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection	979	£3,237
PGD - Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis	902	£3,488
Embryo Donation	553	£1,813

\*Average costs are based on prices displayed by clinics on WhatClinic.com.

## Overseas fertility treatment

Although over 51,000 people searched for UK fertility clinics in the past year, almost six out of ten (59%) enquiries were for overseas clinics. The top five medical tourism hotspots for Brits seeking IVF treatment abroad were Spain, Czech Republic, Turkey, Ireland and Greece and prices range significantly. The average price for IVF in Czech Republic is £821 while in Spain it costs £3,360, on average.

<b>Top 5 destinations for Brits looking at fertility clinics abroad in 2016</b> <b>(based on Whatclinic.com enquiries data)</b>			
Country of clinic	Proportion of all fertility enquiries from Brits in 2016	Average starting price of IVF	Number of Fertility clinics listed on WhatClinic.com
UK	41%	£2,300	218
Spain	8%	£3,360	87
Czech Republic	8%	£821	35
Turkey	4%	£1,389	141

Ireland	4%	£2,496	52
Greece	4%	£2,814	47

### Fertility expert survey

Whatclinic.com surveyed 27 fertility clinics around the world about current and growing trends in fertility treatments for 2017. Here's what they said:

- Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD) is tipped to be the fastest growing trend within fertility in 2017 by the majority of experts surveyed. The procedure is used prior to implantation to help identify genetic defects within embryos created through IVF to prevent certain diseases or disorders from being passed on to the child
- Fertility specialists are excited about advances in cryopreservation, a technique used to preserve eggs, tissue, sperm and other biological matter by cooling them to very low temperatures
- Experts are also keenly watching advancements in aneuploidy screening (commonly called PGS), a procedure which involves checking the chromosomes of embryos conceived by IVF or ICSI for common abnormalities. Chromosomal abnormalities are a major cause of the failure of embryos to implant, and of miscarriages
- The most likely age group for those seeking treatment is 35 - 44, and the oldest female patient seen by those surveyed was 56, seeking pregnancy through egg donation

Fertility expert **Andreas Bazeos, Consultant Gynaecologist, Greece** said, "With the advancements in fertility treatments and procedures, women have more choices available to them such as the option to freeze their eggs while they focus on their career and when the time comes, purchase donor sperm to become pregnant. Additionally, in Greece, some of us have noticed a significant increase in women coming from abroad for egg donation. This is mainly due to the fact that we have a higher age limit (50) compared to most European countries; usually lower prices; and almost no waiting time for treatment as there is direct access to a specialist through self-referral.

"Focusing on the trends, there has been an increase in fertility testing as people check their potential before committing to further procedures. These fertility trends are set to continue, in particular egg freezing and egg donation, with many women deciding to become mothers later in life."

Commenting on the research and trends **Philip Boyle, Head of Consumer Matters for WhatClinic** said, "Medical tourism can often be driven by cost-conscious consumers, however for some treatments, especially fertility, patients will travel further, and pay more to find the very best, most experienced clinics. Cost is very much balanced with expertise and number of successful outcomes in key treatments like IVF.

“Fertility treatments can be emotionally, physically and financially stressful, so that’s why it’s important, especially when time is a factor, to help patients make clear, informed decisions about what their options are, so they can get the best treatment they can, and at the right price.”

**-Ends-**

**For more information contact:**

**Notes to Editors:**

\*This data is based on actual patient enquiries for fertility treatments made by email to 218 UK clinics via WhatClinic.com.

\*\*Average prices are made from individual prices listed by clinics on WhatClinic.com. Clinics list treatment and prices differently on WhatClinic.com, prices usually vary widely and clinics don’t always quote for the same version of a particular procedure.

**About WhatClinic.com:**

WhatClinic.com is a global healthcare comparison website that enables patients to compare and review clinics across the globe, with online booking and independent price checks. With detailed listings for over 120,000 private healthcare clinics across 135 countries worldwide, WhatClinic.com helps consumers make an informed decision on elective medical treatments as conveniently as possible. WhatClinic.com was founded in 2007 by tech entrepreneur Caelen King and is headquartered in Dublin. In 2015, over 15 million unique visitors came to the site to find, compare and book treatments across a wide range of elective medical treatment.