



Data from the HFEA shows that Black and Asian patients have poorer access to fertility treatment and are less likely to have a baby when they do access treatment. This is likely due to several reasons, including biological, social and cultural factors. The British Fertility Society calls for action from all stakeholders to improve timely access to appropriate treatment for all patients, with early recognition and treatment of co-incident gynaecological problems.

Dr Raj Mathur, Chair of the BFS said 'Professionals looking after fertility patients are only too aware of the difficulties many patients face in accessing NHS-funded fertility treatment. These difficulties appear to be larger for some ethnic groups, and we call upon commissioners of healthcare to be conscious of this in making funding decisions. Funding IVF in accordance with NICE guidance would help to reduce this inequality and should be a priority as was recognised in the government's Women's Health Strategy. It is key to develop awareness among clinicians of ethnic disparities in fertility outcomes, and we urgently call for research into this subject.'

Note to editors:

The British Fertility Society (BFS) is a membership body for professionals working in all disciplines of reproductive medicine. The BFS is dedicated to raising the standards of practice, and actively promotes the sharing of knowledge, mentorship and research. It welcomes clinicians and scientists, (including doctors, nurses, counsellors, embryologists and andrologists) and other professional groups working in fertility, into its membership. It provides a voice for professionals in matters relating to regulation and funding of fertility treatment.

<https://www.britishfertilitysociety.org.uk>