



# The National Maternity Hospital Annual Report 2025



An tOspidéal Náisiúnta Máithreachais  
The National Maternity Hospital

# Reproductive Medicine & Surgery

## The National Maternity Hospital Fertility Hub

The National Maternity Hospital Fertility Hub is one of six Regional Fertility Hubs in Ireland and provides advice, investigation and treatment for eligible couples with infertility. The Fertility Hub caters for couples seeking fertility investigations and treatment. The Hub can also refer eligible couples for publicly funded Assisted Human Reproduction (AHR) treatments including Intrauterine Insemination (IUI), In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF), or Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI). There were 1,306 referrals to the NMH Fertility Hub in 2025 (figure 1), a 4% increase in numbers compared with 2024 data (n=1,256 referrals).

Of the referrals shown in Figure 1, there were 737 eligible couples referred to the hub in 2025. Table 1 gives a breakdown of the hub clinical activity in 2025.

Publicly funded Assisted Human Reproduction (AHR)  
There were 284 eligible couples who were referred to private providers for AHR treatment in 2025. This figure continues to grow year on year and outcome data is reported nationally.

## Reproductive Surgery

The number of reproductive surgery procedures performed is outlined in table 2.

The National Maternity Hospital and Merrion Fertility Clinic is the only service in Ireland who together perform laparoscopic oocyte retrievals. For a small subset of women, it can be the only approach to allow access to the ovary to retrieve eggs, for example in the presence of cervical cancers, a laparoscopic approach can be safer for the patient. There were three laparoscopic oocyte retrievals carried out in 2025.

## Merrion Fertility Clinic

The number of referrals to the Merrion Fertility Clinic increased by 6%. The number of female fertility preservation cycles, which had increased significantly in 2024, remained high in 2025. The demand for diagnostic semen analyses grew a further 10% on 2024 figures, while sperm freezing services grew by 20%.

## Assisted reproduction outcomes

### *Fresh embryo transfer cycles*

Patients under 37 years having a fresh transfer of a good quality, untested blastocyst had a clinical pregnancy rate (as defined by the European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE)) of 46% in 2025. As expected, increasing female age at time of embryo creation saw a decrease in clinical pregnancy rates. The overall rate for patients having a good quality fresh embryo (GQE) transferred was 38.4% (figure 2). Unfortunately, not all patients achieve a good quality embryo, considering all fresh embryos transferred in 2025, the clinical pregnancy rate was 31%.

## Frozen embryo transfer (FET) cycles

The clinical pregnancy rate for patients who underwent a frozen embryo transfer (FET) of an untested embryo in 2025 was 44.6% (figure 2), with a multiple pregnancy rate of less than 1%. When stratified by patients aged 37 years when their embryo was frozen, this rate increases to 50%. An excellent cryopreservation programme allows for the safe preservation and storage of blastocysts if a fresh transfer is not possible or desirable. The Pre-Implantation Genetic Testing (PGT) service at Merrion Fertility Clinic is now well established, accounting for 17% of cycles performed in 2025. The clinical pregnancy rate for patients of all ages having a PGT embryo transfer for 2025 was 70% (figure 2).

Single embryo transfer

The percentage of patients at Merrion Fertility Clinic have a single embryo transfer continue to grow and now stand at 87%, an increase of 6% from 2024. This has been achieved without any decrease in clinic pregnancy rates for the same period.

Child, Adolescent and Young Adult (CAYA) Fertility Preservation Services

Twenty-three adolescent males and nine adolescent females (<18 years of age) were referred for cryopreservation services before undergoing gonadotoxic treatment or surgery for cancer or autoimmune disease. Twelve female survivors of CAYA cancer attended in 2025 for an initial fertility consultation, while 25 women attended for a follow-up fertility consultation and ovarian reserve testing. This very important programme is kindly supported by the Irish Cancer Society.

Research

We maintain an active and productive research portfolio, collaborating with scientists in Irish academic institutions and other teaching hospitals, and is a member of the UCD Perinatal Research Centre. Merrion Fertility Clinic employs a full-time head of research, and clinical research fellow posts exist for higher training in reproductive medicine and surgery, with fellows undertaking higher degrees. Merrion Fertility Clinic also hosts and/or mentors several MSc and PhD students. Our studies span a range of topics, from basic

mechanistic biology to clinical translational research. In 2025, our researchers also worked closely with collaborators at several of Ireland's leading academic research institutions, including University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin and Maynooth University on the following research projects:

- Endometrial microbiome and infertility
- Endometriosis and uterine immune cells
- Healthcare providers' knowledge and perceptions towards anti-obesity medication in fertility patients
- Follicular microenvironment in low ovarian reserve (Funding: Ferring)
- Ovarian reserve in childhood cancer survivors (Funding: Irish Cancer Society)
- Employer/workplace supports for employees pursuing fertility treatment (Funding: Research Ireland)

Assisted Human Reproduction Legislation

In June 2024, the Health AHR (Assisted Human Reproduction) Act was signed into law by the President of Ireland. For the act to function, the AHR Act 2024 required the establishment of the Assisted Human Reproduction Regulatory Authority (AHRRA). Dr David Crosby and seven other experts in the field of AHR and surrogacy were appointed by the Minister of Health to the Assisted Human Reproduction Regulatory Authority in 2025.

**Dr David Crosby, Head of Department of Reproductive Medicine, The National Maternity Hospital and Clinical Director, Merrion Fertility Clinic**

Figure 1: NMH fertility hub referrals

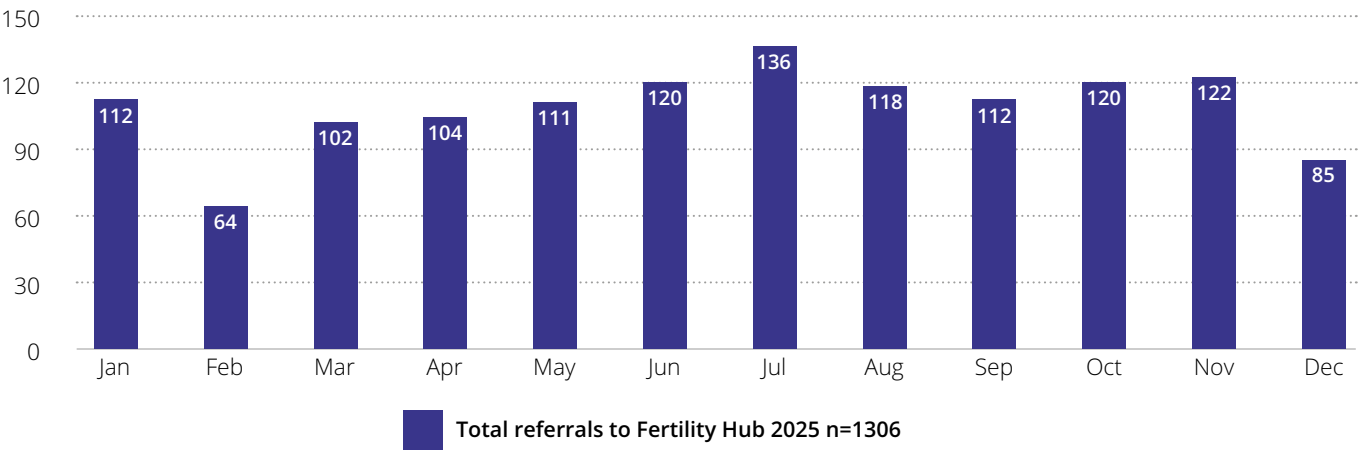


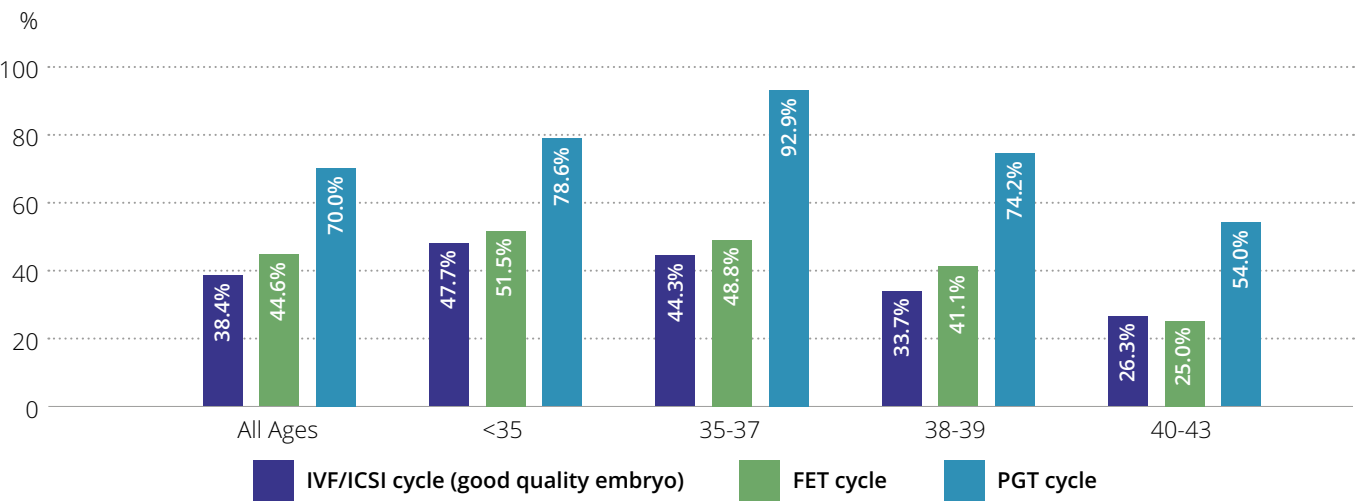
Table 1: Clinical activity in fertility hub

|                                           |             |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Total referrals meeting referral criteria | 737         |
| Total Consultant led clinics              | 82          |
| Consultant appointments completed         | 528         |
| Nurse led clinics                         | 449         |
| Ovulation induction clinics               | 97          |
| Semen analyses analysed                   | 545         |
| Number of onward AHR Referrals            | 284         |
| Reported spontaneous conceptions          | 125         |
| <b>Total</b>                              | <b>1306</b> |

Table 2: Reproductive surgery under general anaesthesia

|                                         | 2024 | 2025 |
|-----------------------------------------|------|------|
| Hysteroscopy – operative and diagnostic | 210  | 330  |
| Operative laparoscopy                   | 124  | 75   |
| Diagnostic laparoscopy                  | 65   | 62   |
| Myomectomy                              | 9    | 23   |

Figure 2: Clinical pregnancy rates per embryo transfer by maternal age





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