

~~~~ CATHY'S STORY ~~~~

We started fertility treatment approx. 10 years ago after I was diagnosed with PCOS. We were living in Jersey when we first started the treatment and they had an informal group that met to share issues. Jersey also has a satellite clinic based in Jersey hospital that partners with Bourne Hall clinic. We chose not to use Bourne Hall for various reasons but we did find the satellite clinic easier as we could have all our scans and blood tests there and they were a unit dedicated to fertility treatments rather than say going to the Medical Specialist Group.

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Our first IVF attempt resulted with me developing severe hyperstimulation with several days in intensive care and approx. a further 2 weeks in hospital. We had numerous attempts and were considering egg donation with a clinic in Spain where egg donation is still anonymous and had initial appointments with them with a view to starting treatment. However by coincidence we watched a Panorama programme on a clinic in London that had its licence suspended (ARGC) we decided that we agreed with all the clinic were doing and made an appointment to see them. Their approach was different to the 2 previous London clinics we had tried and they spent far more time doing investigations etc and insisted that I stayed in London for the complete cycle as they did daily blood tests and would call for scans at any time. We also did alternative medicines including acupuncture and Chinese herbs. Our first IVF treatment with them resulted in our daughter who was born on 20 Jul 09. After all this time and so much heartache we are still amazed every day that we finally achieved our dream.

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Living in Guernsey has drawbacks in that there are no support groups and you have to travel for all your treatment adding further stress but there are benefits in particular the provision of the drugs for the cost of a prescription which saved us literally thousands of pounds. Covering our travel costs was also a great help. My employers (RBS) were tremendously supportive providing time off for appointments and also for 3 weeks whilst I was undertaking treatment in London.

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