

RPAH FERTILITY UNIT INFORMATION FOR KNOWN SPERM DONORS

The following information is intended to answer some of the questions you may have about your intention to become a known sperm donor at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPAH) Fertility Unit.

To become a Known Sperm Donor

- Your decision to become a donor must be altruistic. In Australia, sperm donors are not paid for their donation.
- You must be known to a female recipient who wishes to use your donated sperm to become pregnant.
- Attend a minimum of 2 medical appointments in the Fertility Clinic.
- Attend counselling for a minimum of 2 sessions plus a group session.
- You must provide written informed consent.
- Provide semen samples for sperm cryostorage.
- Have medical screening including blood and urine samples.
- Attend for a blood sample when the quarantine period (3 or 6 months) is complete and attend the Fertility Clinic for a final appointment to clear your donation for use.

The steps you need to take:

RPAH Fertility Clinic Appointment

To arrange an appointment in the RPAH Fertility Clinic please call 02 9515 8824. It may take several weeks before an appointment is available. Your recipient should also be arranging an appointment in the Fertility Clinic, and it is generally convenient for you and your recipient to have separate appointments on the same day.

At this appointment you will meet with the treating doctor responsible for your care who will arrange medical investigations that are relevant to your physical health and fertility. The treating doctor will determine which andrology tests you will need. You will be given a referral by the treating doctor for Genea Andrology. After you attend Genea Andrology you will need to return to the Fertility Unit for your results which will determine the number of times you will need to store sperm.

Genea Andrology

This service is part of Genea and located at Level 4, 321 Kent Street, Sydney. To arrange an appointment please call 02 8484 6577. You will be given all the information needed to attend for collection, including costs. **Prior to making your first** collection complete the Risk Declaration Form provided by your RPAH Doctor. When you attend Genea to make your collection you will be asked to sign general consent for storage of your sperm.

Quarantine Period

Donated sperm samples will be quarantined for 3 months **after the last collection**. This may be increased to a 6 month quarantine period if there have been increased risks noted in your risk declaration or identified in your initial screening. The quarantine period is in place because sperm, like most human tissues, carry diseases. Donors should be tested for disease at the time of donation. However, a negative test is not conclusive, as some diseases take many months to show up on blood tests. Therefore, sperm is held in cryostorage for 3 or 6 months. At the end of that time, the donor is retested. If that test proves negative, the gametes (sperm) are considered disease free. You will therefore need to arrange your final appointment at the Fertility Clinic for your donation to be cleared.

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Counselling

You and your partner (if applicable) will need to meet with the Unit's counsellor. This counselling aims to ensure that you are clear about the implications of your decision to be a donor and to ensure informed consent. This involves a minimum of 2 appointments for each party followed by an appointment for all parties together. Partners must attend all counselling sessions. Counselling focuses on many issues including the legal implications, the expectations of all parties, and the needs of a donor conceived child. Please call 02 9515 8119 to arrange an appointment with the counsellor after your clinic appointment. At the completion of counselling, you will sign consents for use of your donated sperm for treatment of your known recipient to achieve a pregnancy. Supportive counselling services are available to all participants before, during and after treatment.

Legal Considerations

The RPA Fertility Unit does not provide legal advice. It is recommended you seek your own independent legal advice in respect of being a known sperm donor.

Under current New South Wales law, a sperm donor who provides written consent is not a legal parent of a child born as a result of donor treatment.

The Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Act, 2007, gives legal rights to donor conceived adults to access information about the donor when they turn 18 years of age. The Act established a Central Register, which commenced in 2010. Following the birth of a child, born as a result of donor treatment, clinics are required to provide information about the recipient, the child and the donor to NSW Health for inclusion on the Central Register. If you would like more information on the ART Act and the Central Register, information is available from the NSW Health website www.health.nsw.gov.au/art

The Assisted Reproductive Technology Act, 2007, also

- Places time limits on the use of donor gametes (sperm) to no more than 15 years after the sperm was obtained.
- Places time limits on the use and storage of embryos created from donor gametes (sperm) to no more than 15 years.
- Requires the donor to declare the number of children they have had in all relationships as well as disclosing if they have been a sperm donor for any other person or at any other facility and name all such facilities. It prohibits treatment using donated sperm if the treatment is likely to result in offspring of the donor being born to more than 5 women- exemption to this is when the women or their partner (including same sex or de facto) are the parent to a child created using the same donor's gametes.
- Prevents use of gametes (sperm) or embryos created from donated gametes after the death of the donor unless a specific consent is in place.
- Prevents export of gametes (sperm) or embryos created using donor gametes without the consent of the donor.
- Requires the ART provider to determine that the gamete (sperm) donor is alive if they donated more than 5 years before the donor treatment.
- Allows a donor to withdraw or modify their consent until the gamete (sperm) is placed in the body of a woman in IUI treatment or an embryo is created using the gamete in IVF treatment.

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What if my recipient wants to transfer my donation from a private clinic to RPAH?

All parties, i.e. recipients and donors, need to be seen in the Fertility Clinic by a doctor to become patients of RPAH. As a donor you will still need to be seen as a patient even if you have already stored your donation at another clinic. This is because the treating doctor has a medico-legal responsibility to all parties. Recipients and the donor will also need to meet with the counsellor to update counselling and to complete some RPAH consents forms.

If you have any further questions, you are welcome to ring the Fertility Unit nursing staff on 02-9515 8824 or to speak to the counsellor on 02 9515 8119.