

**RPAH FERTILITY UNIT  
INFORMATION FOR RECIPIENTS WITH A KNOWN EGG DONOR**

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

**Who may seek access to known egg donor treatment**

- The decision to use an egg donor is a complex one with lifelong implications. We respect that all participants presenting for this treatment have their own unique circumstances and needs
- There are many reasons why some women require egg donor treatment. These include premature menopause, genetic conditions, they are unable to use their own eggs, born without ovaries, have undergone cancer treatment, and women who have repeatedly had unsuccessful IVF treatment
- The RPAH requires that recipients find and are happy with their egg donor. We do not act as an agency for donor eggs
- The donor's decision to become a donor must be altruistic. In Australia, egg donors are not paid for their donation

**Steps you need to take:**

**RPAH Fertility Clinic Appointment**

Recipients and donors require their own G.P referrals to a doctor at the Fertility Clinic. You and your known donor will then have to arrange appointments in the Fertility Clinic – one for yourself and your partner and one for your donor. This is to check the recipients and donor's physical health and fertility. To arrange an appointment in the Fertility Clinic call 02 9515 8824. It may take several weeks before an appointment is available. You will need to arrange a first appointment both for yourself and your partner and a separate appointment for your donor, preferably on the same day.

**Limitations on treatment**

There are limitations on the circumstances where the RPAH can provide treatment to a recipient couple using a known egg donor. This is because as a public hospital facility we will only proceed where there is a minimal risk of harm for all parties. Requirements include:

- The recipient (woman who wishes to carry a pregnancy) must be under 50 years of age
- The recipient must have a BMI (body mass index) under 35
- The donor must have a BMI (body mass index) under 35
- If there are any significant medical risks for the recipient in pregnancy, an obstetrician must have agreed to provide ante-natal care
- Daughter to mother donation is not facilitated
- The Fertility Unit has set a minimum age of 25 years for women donating their eggs. For those aged 21-25 who have completed their families, and request to donate their eggs, their request will be reviewed on an individual basis. We recommend that egg donors ideally are under 35 years of age and have already completed their family. Age criteria and considerations are taken into account so that in the rare event of a complication occurring it does not jeopardise the donor's own chances of having a family; and secondly, to ensure that their potential desire to become a mother has already been met.

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It is the responsibility of the treating doctor to determine, in consultation with you, if the donor is suitable for your treatment.

**Screening**

Your doctor will determine what medical tests and screening is required in order to determine the suitability of this treatment for you. In some cases your doctor may not recommend treatment. With respect to your donor, they will require a consult with a doctor who will try to ensure they are healthy and do not appear to have an increased risk of passing on a serious medical condition. This will include a karyotype and genetic carrier screening. Whilst every effort is made to eliminate risk of transmission of genetic disease, this cannot be guaranteed. Genetic disease may also become known for the first time in the donor, their family or in children of other recipients who have used the same donor, only after a child is born.

**Quarantine Period**

At the RPAH Fertility Unit all embryos created from an egg donation cycle are quarantined for a **3 month period**. The donor is tested for infectious diseases before the cycle and then again at the end of the 3 months. This includes tests for HIV, hepatitis B & C, syphilis, human lymphotropic virus (HTLV 1 & 2), Cytomegalovirus (CMV IgM and IgG), and blood group. This is to eliminate any risk of infection.

**Implications Counselling**

Your doctor will refer you to the Fertility Unit counsellor after determining suitability of this treatment. As a recipient of known egg donation, you and your partner will need to meet with the counsellor. Implications counselling aims to ensure that all parties are clear about the implications of their decision to use a known donor in order to provide 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. The completion of counselling does not guarantee that treatment will occur. It is your doctor's decision whether or not to treat in any specific situation. Supportive counselling services are available to all participants before, during and after treatment.

**What is involved in the medical treatment?**

The Fertility Unit offers treatment using a donor who is known to the recipient and their partner. The Unit in conjunction with Genea, provides, donor screening, counselling, cycle monitoring In vitro fertilisation (IVF) involving the donor and embryo transfer for the recipient. In order to donate eggs, the donor must go through most of the components of an IVF cycle. An IVF cycle typically takes up to 3 weeks from the time of the first injections to egg collection. Although generally very safe, as with all medical procedures, IVF has risks of which you need to be aware. Your doctor will review IVF treatment with you and be able to answer any questions you may have.

Steps in an IVF cycle are:

- Stimulating the ovaries with injections of FSH
- Preventing premature ovulation by shutting down communication between the brain and the ovaries so that the eggs are not released before they can be collected
- 'Triggering' ovulation by replacing the LH surge at mid cycle with an injection of hCG
- Collecting the eggs and sperm

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Eggs that are collected will be fertilised with the recipient's male partner's sperm to create embryos. The RPAH Fertility Unit have a 3 month quarantine period for embryos created from the donation process. After this quarantine period is completed, and no risks identified, the recipient can then proceed to have a nursing interview carried out with the plan to proceed with a single embryo transfer procedure.

**Legal Considerations**

**The RPAH Fertility Unit does not provide legal advice. It is recommended you seek your own independent legal advice in respect of being a recipient of known egg donation.**

Under current New South Wales law the recipient and their partner, who provides written consent, will be the legal parents of a child born as a result of donor treatment. You will be required to consent to treatment and to enter your name(s) on the child's or children's birth registration.

The Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Act, 2007, provides 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 NSW ART Act and Central Register, information is available on the NSW Health website [www.health.nsw.gov.au/art](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/art)

The Assisted Reproductive Technology Act, 2007, also

- Places time limits on the use of donor gametes (eggs) to no more than 15 years after the eggs was obtained;
- Places time limits on the use and storage of embryos created from donor gametes (eggs) to no more than 15 years;
- Prohibits treatment using donated eggs if the treatment is likely to result in offspring of the donor being born to more than 5 women (including the donors own family)
- Prevents use of gametes (eggs) or embryos created from donated gametes after the death of the donor unless a specific consent is in place;
- Prevents export of gametes (eggs) or embryos created using donor gametes without the consent of the donor;
- Allows an egg donor to withdraw or modify their consent until the eggs have been collected, fertilised and embryos have been created.

**In summary:**

- Following GP referral, arrange clinic appointments by calling 02 9515 8824
- Consultation with a fertility specialist in RPAH Fertility Clinic
- Referral for screening tests
- Referral to counsellor for implications counselling (minimum of 2 sessions for each party plus a joint counselling session). Please call 02 9515 8119 to arrange an appointment.
- Upon completion of counselling and screening tests, a Nursing Interview will take place for the donor
- Treatment begins

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.