

## **RPAH FERTILITY UNIT INFORMATION FOR RECIPIENTS WITH A KNOWN SPERM DONOR**

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

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

- The decision to use a sperm donor is a complex one with lifelong implications. We respect that all participants presenting for this treatment have their own unique circumstances and needs.
- Donor treatment is a service available to fertile women who wish to conceive a child but who are unable to do so because their male partner is infertile or because they do not have a male partner. A child conceived as a result of donor treatment will have a genetic and medical history, which is a combination of the woman requesting treatment and the donor.
- The RPAH requires that recipients find and are happy with their sperm donor. We do not act as an agency for donor sperm.
- The donor's decision to become a donor must be altruistic. In Australia, sperm donors are not paid for their donation.

### **Options available**

- The Fertility Unit only offers treatment using a donor who is known to the recipient and their partner (if applicable). The Fertility Unit in conjunction with Genea, provides counselling, sperm screening and freezing, cycle monitoring and intrauterine insemination (IUI). In vitro fertilisation (IVF) is available only if medically indicated.

### **The steps you need to take:**

#### **RPAH Fertility Clinic Appointment**

Firstly you and your known donor will have to arrange appointments in the Fertility Clinic – one for yourself and your partner (if applicable), 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 (if applicable) and a separate appointment for your donor, preferably on the same day.

#### **Limitations on treatment**

The nature of your treatment using donated sperm is a decision made in consultation with your treating doctor. If you and your donor have no fertility problems, IUI may be the recommended treatment. IVF treatment is available if medically indicated. The clinic's upper age limit for treatment is 45 years of age. Between the ages of 43 to 45 the Fertility Unit can only offer 3 IVF cycles.

#### **How donors are screened**

Each prospective donor is screened initially to ensure that they are generally healthy and have sufficient fertile sperm to use for treatment. This medical screening aims to identify, as far as possible, genetic or infectious risks that may be transmitted to you or your potential child by the donor semen. Current screening is able to provide a high likelihood of eliminating risks from HIV, hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections (STI's). 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.

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

Your donor will need to have blood tests done through the pathology department at RPAH as directed by the Fertility Clinic doctor. These blood tests will be done prior to the first collection.

**Quarantine Period**

Your donor will be given a referral from the treating doctor to the Genea Andrology service at Genea. They will need to call 02 8484 6577 and ask to make an Andrology appointment. At this stage your donor will be given all the information they need to attend for collection, including costs. The treating doctor will also determine which andrology tests the donor will need to have and the number of donations the donor will make dependant on sperm quality.

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 the donor's risk declaration or identified during initial screening. Post quarantine, it is only after your donor has had blood tests to clear the donation that you are able to commence treatment at the Fertility Unit.

**Implications Counselling**

As a recipient of known sperm donation, you and your partner (if applicable) will need to meet with the Fertility Unit's 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.

**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 sperm donation.**

Under current New South Wales law the recipient and their partner (if applicable), 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 from 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 (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.

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

- 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 Fertility Unit to determine that the gamete (sperm) donor is alive if they have 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 accessing IUI treatment or their donated sperm has been utilised in IVF treatment and embryos have been created.

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

Most women accessing donated sperm treatment require IUI. This is a relatively simple procedure whereby prepared semen is placed into the uterus at the fertile time in the menstrual cycle. When you commence treatment you will need to attend the RPA Medical Centre for blood tests 3-7 days each month. Blood tests are carried out to accurately assess the correct timing of IUI. The IUI itself is performed by a doctor and requires a speculum examination. It involves a visit to the Fertility Unit usually lasting about half an hour. If you have had any difficulties with internal examinations in the past, please speak to the nursing staff. IUI cycles can be repeated monthly for 6 months at which stage it would be recommended you have a medical review in the outpatient Fertility Clinic.

In some circumstances IVF may be the recommended treatment. You must have a BMI (body mass index) under 35.

**What is the outcome for a baby?**

There are no risks related to the use of IUI beyond those of a pregnancy conceived naturally. This means there is still a 20% chance of miscarriage, a 3-5% chance of a foetal abnormality, and small risks associated with multiple birth and prematurity.

**What if I want to transfer my treatment from a private clinic to RPAH?**

All parties, i.e. recipients and donors, need to be seen in the RPAH Fertility Clinic by a doctor to become patients of RPAH. Your donor will still need to be seen as a patient even if they have already stored their donation at another clinic. This is because the RPAH Fertility Clinic 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.

**What is the cost of my treatment?**

The cost of your treatment is determined by the type of treatment recommended by your doctor.

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.