Thank you for considering being a sperm donor. We need men in the Auckland area who are between the ages of 18 and 45, healthy, responsible and who would like to help somebody start a family. Unfortunately men who have lived in the UK, France or Republic of Ireland for a total of 6 months or more between 1980 and 1996 must be excluded from being a sperm donor.

**Becoming a sperm donor**

Provide a semen sample for trial freeze and thaw to assess suitability as donor.

If sperm suitable, lab to send out all blood/urine test forms regarding infection transmission, questionnaires and consent forms. **Donor to bring all forms to Counsellors and Dr's appointment.**

- Counselling session (with partner if applicable) to discuss social, ethical and personal issues surrounding donation.
- Counsellor and donor to sign off donors consent form.
- If known donor - counsellors session with recipient.

Same day appointments if possible

- Doctor’s appointment.
- Discuss medical, personal and family history. Doctor and donor to sign off medical questionnaire.

Donor to consult with lab and freeze more samples (may require up to 15 samples frozen).

Repeat HIV test 6 months after last sample frozen.

Frozen sperm ready for use.
Who uses donor sperm?

- For some infertile couples, the reason for infertility is male factor where the sperm produced is poor in quality or no sperm is produced at all. Many of these couples have decided that using donor sperm is the preferred method of trying to conceive under these circumstances.
- For single women or women in lesbian relationships, using sperm from our donor programme means treatment is carried out in a controlled and safe environment thereby reducing physical, social and emotional risk.

The donation process

- Initially you will be required to provide a semen sample at Fertility PLUS for analysis. Semen samples are produced by masturbation and we prefer 2-3 days abstinence before production of a sample. At this time we will analysis the semen to determine whether the quality is suitable for donation and how well the sperm survive freezing and thawing. All our donated sperm is stored in liquid nitrogen at -196°C. Some semen may be unsuitable for donation as it responds poorly to freezing although this does not affect fertility of the fresh sample. At this point you will receive further information about being a donor and we will answer any questions you have.
- If you are still happy to proceed with becoming a donor you and your partner if you have one, will need to attend a counselling session with our Social Worker to discuss social, ethical, and personal issues relating to sperm donation. Consent forms are often completed at this stage.
- We routinely screen all donors for HIV, Hep B, Hep C, Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea and Syphilis and once we have received the results of these tests an appointment with one of our doctors will be arranged for you. The doctor will assist you with the completion of a personal, medical and family history form to exclude inheritable diseases.
- After these two sessions are completed (we can arrange them both on the same day at a convenient date and time for you) you will need to complete a non-identifying information sheet for prospective recipients. This information includes interests and family history that the recipients have access to if a child is born from your donation.
- We will need you to produce several samples that can be frozen. The number will depend on how your sperm survives freezing and thawing. Freezing samples can be arranged when it most suits you within laboratory hours of 7.30am until 2.30pm on weekdays.
- We also need you to have a repeat HIV Hep B and C blood test 6 months after your last sperm donation. This is vital so that your frozen sperm can be cleared from quarantine and ready for use by a recipient.
- Should you donate, your semen may be used by a maximum of four families although you can specify any restrictions you feel are appropriate e.g. how many families, ethnicity etc. After a child has been born that recipient may put some of the donor sperm aside to try for siblings at a later time. A donor may have up to 10 children in four families.
- It is very important that any change of address and phone number is updated with laboratory staff as we may need to contact you in the future.
The legal implications

- The HART Act specifies that sperm can only be stored for a maximum of 10 years; however a recipient family can request an extension of this time through the Ministry of Health.
- The Status of Children Amendment Act of 1987 recognises the social father (the husband/de facto partner of the woman who receives the semen) as the legal father of the child. The sperm donor does not have any legal rights or liabilities.
- Under New Zealand Law we are unable to pay for Sperm donation.

After donation

- All donors must be willing to be identified to children born as a result of their donation in the long term. The Assisted Reproductive Technologies Act 2004 gives all children born as a result of donation the right to find out the identity of their donor at the age of 18.
- This means that information including your name and address as well as any information given by you at the time of donation will be kept by the clinic.
- As a sperm donor, you can find out the sex and number of children born as a result of your donation.
- It is important to note that the donor can withdraw his consent to donate at any time prior to the use of the gametes.
- According to ECART guidelines if a donor dies the frozen sperm will still be available to a person/couple who has requested storage for a sibling pregnancy. If there has been no pregnancy resulting from the use of the sperm, the remaining samples will be discarded in a culturally appropriate manner.
- All donors should be encouraged to designate two or more people who will inform the clinic in the event of the donors’ death.

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