

# Embryo Donation (Donors)



## Information for Patients and Partners



# What is this leaflet about and who is it for?

This leaflet is about embryo donation which has been designed for patients who have completed a cycle of *In vitro* Fertilisation (IVF) or Intra-Cytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI) treatment and have embryos remaining in storage that they no longer wish to use for their own treatment. In such circumstances it is possible to donate these embryos to other patients who are unable to conceive using their own gametes (eggs or sperm). Known donors only give their embryos specifically to help people they know.

## Who is suitable for embryo donation?

- Egg provider between 18 and 35 when embryos were created
- Sperm provider between 18 and 45 when embryos were created
- No history of transmissible disease
- No personal or family history of inheritable disorders
- No higher risk of transferring a prion-related disease
- 2 or more embryos in storage

## What does the donation process involve?

An initial questionnaire, to assess suitability, will be sent to both of you for completion. Once this has been returned and reviewed by clinic staff you will be contacted to arrange an appointment with us to discuss the donation process and complete forms enabling us to contact your General Practitioner. Once we have contacted your GP, your case will be discussed at a multi-disciplinary team meeting to determine whether you are suitable as embryo donors.

If accepted, an initial appointment with our counsellor would be arranged to discuss the implications of embryo donation and the required consent forms. Following this there would be a second counselling appointment to complete the consent forms and have some blood and urine tests taken. We test for:

HIV	Hepatitis B
Hepatitis C	Karyotype (your genetic make-up)
Syphilis	Cystic Fibrosis (to see if you are a carrier)
Cytomegalovirus	Gonorrhoea
Chlamydia	

Other tests may be required according to ethnicity/ geography/ medical history, such as HTLV, Tay Sachs, Sickle Cell,  $\alpha$  or  $\beta$  Thalassaemia, glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency, Malaria, T. Cruzi.

These blood tests are all taken at the same time and only require one needle to be inserted in the arm. Screening may not be 100% effective and you must tell us in future if you become aware of heritable illness. If you practice anal sex, we will also need to perform a rectal swab.

At this appointment each of you will also be given a form to take home with you to write a little bit about yourself. This form provides the only, freely accessible, personal information about you to any resulting child and can be very beneficial in order for that child to understand their own personality, likes and dislikes etc.

## Important considerations

As previously mentioned, we require a number of blood tests to be taken. It is worthwhile bearing in mind that your results may not all be negative, for example we may find out that you are a cystic fibrosis carrier. If any irregularities were found in either of your blood tests, we would inform you and invite you for an appointment to discuss this.

Any children born as a result of this donation can find out:

- anonymous information about the donor and any donor-conceived genetic siblings, from the age of 16
- identifying information about the donor, from the age of 18
- identifying information about donor-conceived genetic siblings, with mutual consent, from the age of 18

- information about the possibility of being related to the person they intend to marry/ enter into a civil partnership with, at any age
- information about the possibility of being related to the person they intend to enter into an intimate physical relationship with, from the age of 16

Personal details such as your name, date of birth and last known address will be held on a register at the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA).

The increasing popularity of direct-to-consumer DNA testing has made it possible for donors and donor-conceived people to become identifiable to each other outside of the current, managed system of information provision. This can happen if they, or a close family relative, sign up to such a service that allows for genetic matching. Many people undergo these DNA tests to learn more about their family heritage, however it has introduced the possibility of a donor or donor-conceived person (or a close relative) being matched with one another.

If you are a man who wishes to donate embryos that were originally created for the treatment of yourself and your partner, you should be aware of the uncertain legal status if the embryos are used in the treatment of a single woman. For further information please visit the HFEA website and be advised to seek independent legal advice before consenting to donate their embryos. The egg donor will not be the legal parent of any resulting child(ren) and will relinquish all legal rights and responsibilities towards the child(ren).

## How many families can a donor help to create?

Donors are able to help the creation of up to 10 families. Each family may consist of more than one donor-conceived child because genetic siblings or half siblings sharing at least one legal parent will be considered to belong to the same family.

## What will the embryo recipients be told about donors?

Only non-identifying information can be given. Physical characteristics such as height, hair colour and eye colour are given so as to try and obtain as close a match as possible or one that is acceptable to the recipient. The recipients may also be given other non-identifying information about you, such as hobbies or interests.

## Can we find out what has happened to the embryos?

You can request to be informed the number & gender of any child(ren) born as a result of your donation. We may be able to treat more than one patient with your embryos depending on how many you have.

## Are donors paid?

No, this is illegal in the UK. However, donors can receive compensation for reasonable expenses (excluding earnings) incurred as a result of donation, in line with legislation.

## What happens if we change our minds?

You can remove your consent to donate your embryos at any time prior to them being used for treatment. Donated embryos can be kept in storage for up to 55 years.

There are currently very few embryos available for recipients so thank you very much for considering embryo donation and for reading this document. If we can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the unit on our direct line number: 0116 2585922.

# Our commitment to patients

We are constantly striving to improve our services to patients, and we will welcome your comments or suggestions for improvement.

## Leicester Fertility Centre Contact Details

**Tel:** 0116 2585922  
**E-mail:** LFCinfo@uhl-tr.nhs.uk  
**Website:** [www.leicesterfertilitycentre.org.uk](http://www.leicesterfertilitycentre.org.uk)

## Useful addresses

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority: [www.hfea.gov.uk](http://www.hfea.gov.uk)

[www.hfea.gov.uk/donation/donors/donating-your-embryos](http://www.hfea.gov.uk/donation/donors/donating-your-embryos)

NICE guidelines: [www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)

NHS - Response line: [111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk) / 111

NHS - Smoking helpline: 0300 123 1044

Fertility Network UK: [www.fertilitynetworkuk.org](http://www.fertilitynetworkuk.org) / 0121 323 5025

Donor Conception Network [www.dcnetwork.org](http://www.dcnetwork.org)

Do you feel that you are at risk of verbal or physical abuse? If so, you may find the following numbers useful:

Domestic Violence Helpline:

United against violence & abuse (UAVA)

Helpline: 0808 802 0028

Email: [info@uava.org.uk](mailto:info@uava.org.uk)

Text support: 07715 994 962



*This information was correct at the time of printing. While the Trust makes every reasonable effort to keep its information leaflets up to date, very recent changes may not be reflected in the guidance and you should discuss this with the clinical staff at the time of your appointment.*







## Today's research is tomorrow's care

We all benefit from research. Leicester's Hospitals is a research active Trust so you may find that research is happening when you visit the hospital or your clinic.

If you are interested in finding out how you can become involved in a clinical trial or to find out more about taking part in research, please speak to your clinician or GP.

**If you need information in a different language or format, please call the number(s) below or email [equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)**

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔

على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل  
જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર ફોન કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

**0116 258 4382 or 0116 250 2959**