

Embryo Donation (Donors)

Information for Patients and Partners



Leicester Fertility Centre
Caring at its best



University Hospitals of Leicester **NHS**
NHS Trust

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	Human T Cell Lymphotropic Viruses (HTLV)
Hepatitis B	Karyotype (your genetic make-up)
Hepatitis C	Cystic Fibrosis (to see if you are a carrier)
Cytomegalovirus	Syphilis
Chlamydia	Gonorrhoea

Other tests may be required depending on a potential donor's ethnic group for conditions such as Tay-Sachs (Eastern European Jewish), sickle cell anaemia (African / Afro-Caribbean) and β -thalassaemia (Mediterranean / Middle Eastern / Asian).

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

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.

You should also be aware that donors no longer retain their anonymity. Any child born as a result of your donation can apply for your personal details such as your name, date of birth and last known address. These details will be held on a register at the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) and are accessible to a child born of donation from their 18th birthday.

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 or being treated with the embryos.

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 whether a child has been born as a result of your donation. You can be told the sex of the child and the year of birth. We may be able to treat more than one patient with your embryos depending on how many you have in storage.

Will we have any responsibility towards a child born as a result of our donation?

No. You will not be legally or financially responsible for any child born as a result of your donation. You will have no legal claim to them and they will have no legal claim to you.

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

Useful addresses

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority: www.hfea.gov.uk
NICE guidelines: www.nice.org.uk
NHS - Response line: [111.nhs.uk](tel:111) / 111
NHS - Smoking helpline: 0300 123 1044
Fertility Network UK: www.fertilitynetworkuk.org / 0121 323 5025
SEED (Sperm, Egg & Embryo Donation) Trust: www.seedtrust.org.uk

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)

0808 802 0028



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 would like this information in another language or format, please contact the service equality manager on 0116 250 2959

إذا كنت ترغب في الحصول على هذه المعلومات في شكل أو لغة أخرى ، يرجى الاتصال مع مدير الخدمة للمساواة في 0116 250 2959.

আপনি যদি এই লিফলেটের অনুবাদ - লিখিত বা অডিও টেপ'এ চান, তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে সার্ভিস ইকুয়ালিটি ম্যানেজার ডেভ বেকার'এর সাথে 0116 250 2959 নাম্বারে যোগাযোগ করুন।

如果您想用另一种语言或格式来显示本资讯，请致电 0116 250 2959 联系“服务平等化经理” (Service Equality Manager)。

જો તમને આ પત્રધક્કાનું લેખિત અથવા ટેઈપ ઉપર ભાષાંતર જોઈતું હોય તો મહેરબાની કરી સર્વિસ ઈકુવાલિટી મેનેજરનો 0116 250 2959 ઉપર સંપર્ક કરો.

यदि आप को इस लीफलेट का लिखती या टेप पर अनुवाद चाहिए तो कृपया डेव बेकर, सर्विस इक्वालिटी मैनेजर से 0116 250 2959 पर सम्पर्क कीजिए।

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać niniejsze informacje w tłumaczeniu na inny język lub w innym formacie, prosimy skontaktować się z Menedżerem ds. równości w dostępie do usług (Service Equality Manager) pod numerem telefonu 0116 250 2959.

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਲੀਫਲੇਟ ਦਾ ਲਿਖਤੀ ਜਾਂ ਟੇਪ ਕੀਤਾ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਡੇਵ ਬੇਕਰ, ਸਰਵਿਸ ਇਕੁਆਲਿਟੀ ਮੈਨੇਜਰ ਨਾਲ 0116 250 2959 'ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Ak by ste chceli dostať túto informáciu v inom jazyku, alebo formáte, kontaktujte prosím manažéra rovnosti služieb na tel. číslo 0116 250 2959.

Haddaad rabto warqadan oo turjuman oo ku duuban cajalad ama qoraal ah fadlan la xirii, Maamulaha Adeegga Sinaanta 0116 250 2959.