

## **SPERM DONATION**

Thank you for expressing an interest in becoming a sperm donor. If after reading all the information you have further questions, please feel free to contact us.

The use of donor sperm as a fertility treatment addresses a major problem. For many years there has been a relative shortage of donor sperm available for couples where the male partner has significant fertility problems or is a carrier of a serious genetic condition.

### **Who can become a sperm donor?**

Sperm donors must be between the ages of 18 and 45 years, should be fit and healthy, and they and their families should be free from any serious medical condition or genetic disease. The sperm donor must also test negative for certain infectious diseases and have certain genetic analyses performed.

### **Anonymity**

With a growing awareness of how important it is for some donor-conceived people to find out more about their genetic origins, the Government lifted anonymity for donors in April 2005. This means that anyone conceived using donated sperm will be allowed to ask the HFEA for identifying information about the donor when they reach the age of 16/18. It is important to note however that the donor of sperm is NOT the legal parent and you will not be financially or emotionally liable for the upbringing of any child created using your sperm.

### **Financial reimbursement**

You are entitled to claim expenses to cover your costs of travel to GCRM and any loss of earnings – up to a maximum of £250 for the series of donation. Payment would be at the end of the donation process unless requested otherwise. A final amount would also be kept for your return visit, after the 6 months quarantine of the sperm (see Final Appointment).

### **What is involved in becoming A Sperm Donor?**

#### **1. Initial Appointment with Embryologist**

At this informal visit we would explain to you what is involved in becoming a sperm donor and outline the number of visits that you would be expected to make.

A semen sample should be produced for the embryologist for analysis and to assess its suitability for freezing and thawing. Sometimes these results will be borderline and you may be asked to repeat the sample within a few days or indeed be rejected as a donor at this stage. Please be aware that rejection as a sperm donor does not mean that you are unable to have children. Indeed many men who are rejected as donors already have children themselves. If however your semen analysis result indicates to us that there may be a major problem we will inform you of this.

Counselling is strongly advocated prior to you becoming a sperm donor to ensure that you have no doubts about being a sperm donor and are fully aware of the implications this may have on you and your family in the long term.

## **2. Return Appointment with Doctor**

A full medical history would be taken at this visit and the Doctor would do a physical examination.

You will have blood taken to check for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV, Syphilis, Cytomegalovirus, Cystic Fibrosis, CMV & Blood Grouping. A urine sample would be sent for screening for Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea.

You will be asked to complete the appropriate consent forms and registration documents, as well as a medical questionnaire. All of which are required for becoming a sperm donor.

We would contact you when the results were available and assuming satisfactory results, we would arrange an appointment for your first donation.

## **3. Donation of sperm**

Samples would be produced and stored either weekly for approximately 12 weeks, or twice weekly for 6 weeks.

## **4. Final appointments**

You would be asked to attend and provide us with a blood and urine sample 1 month after your final sample was produced and stored. This allows us to repeat the screening tests for Syphilis, Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea. 6 months after your final donation we require you to provide us with another blood sample for repeat screening of Hep B, Hep C, CMV & HIV. At this appointment the Dr will carry out another review of your medical history and perform a final physical examination.

Final payment for donation expenses are given at this stage.

This process may seem very protracted but it is for your peace of mind and for the safety of the recipients.

If you decide to become a donor your donation would be greatly appreciated.