



Being a recipient of donor sperm

In this information sheet, you will find specific information on being the recipient of donor sperm at Repromed. It is intended to be read in partnership with the Journey Planner that gives you more generalised information on what is involved with aspects of treatment preparation and cycle monitoring.



There are many people who will not be able to have children without the generous help of a sperm donor. The decision to use donated sperm involves many considerations, including potential long term psychological, social, health and legal implications. The donor team at Repromed, including the donor coordinator, doctors, counselors, nurses and scientists are here to support you through the process and answer any questions you have.

WHO ARE OUR DONORS?

Our donors are amazing people for giving the generous gift of life to another person or couple, a gift that is truly life changing. Every sperm donor at Repromed undergoes medical and counselling consultations, as well as screening for genetic disorders and infectious diseases. Sperm donation involves using frozen/thawed sperm, for IVF (in vitro fertilisation) or IUI (intra uterine insemination) treatments and is referred collectively as DI (Donor Insemination). At Repromed, we want altruistic motives to be at the heart of all donations. We have balanced the desire to treat donors fairly with the need to avoid a financial incentive to donate. The sperm donor compensation at Repromed reflects the expense, time and effort that donors experience. Its aim is to cover expenses for donors which may include transport and childcare. The optimal age to donate sperm is between 20-45 years of age.

WHAT IS INVOLVED

1. Contact our donor coordinator

The first contact sperm donor recipients have with Repromed is with our donor coordinator whose role it is to guide you through the steps below. They will explain the process of how donor sperm treatment works at Repromed, and arrange booking an initial consultation with one of our doctors.

2. Meet our Repromed doctor

One of our Repromed doctors will go through the process of the treatments we offer when using donated sperm. The doctor will also go through your medical history (for both partners if applicable) and a physical examination including a transvaginal ultrasound scan, which may also be performed at this time.

3. Meet our donor coordinator

Following the appointment with the doctor, the donor coordinator will discuss one/both of the following:

- A) Adding you to the clinic sperm donor waiting list, and discussing approximate waiting list times OR
- B) Making contact with your potential known donor to organize information and initial appointments for semen analysis

4. Visit one of our counsellors

Our counsellors will support you through the process and discuss in detail the Human Assisted Reproductive Technology (HART) Act 2004, which governs fertility treatment in New Zealand. Counselling is mandatory under the HART Act.

The Act and guidelines state counsellors are required to demonstrate that the potential donors and recipients have discussed and understand a range of topics pertinent to the welfare of the potential child, the donor, the recipient and any existing children in families.

If you are in a long term live-in relationship, your partner will also need to be involved in counselling and agreeable to all aspects of the donation. Some donor arrangements require approval from the Ethics Committee on Assisted Reproductive Technology (ECART) and the counsellors will inform and guide you through this process if necessary. Repromed Counsellors are ANZICA approved (Australian and New Zealand Infertility Counsellors Association).

5. Complete consent forms and questionnaires

To ensure understanding of the donation process and implications for the future, those embarking on the donor sperm program must fully understand and sign consent forms relating to the medical procedures and the donation process.

6. Choose a clinic donor (if not a known donor)

When you reach the top of the clinic donor waiting list, the donor coordinator will contact you to arrange viewing of the available donor profiles. While donor sperm is a relatively scarce resource for some ethnicities, Repromed aims to provide recipients with 2 - 4 choices if possible.

Each donor is identified as a unique number and this is referred to during selection and throughout your treatment including consent forms. The profiles have been written by the donors themselves and include non-identifying information about their appearance, family, education, occupation and interests. Viewing the profiles is undertaken at Repromed with our counsellors and stay on the premises without replication. You may take up to seven days to make your decision about which donor you wish to proceed with. The donor coordinator will then send you a letter confirming your choice of donor.

If for any reason you are not ready to choose a clinic sperm donor profile after reaching the top of the waiting list, you can be placed 'on hold' for up to 6 months. If you indicate in that 6 month period that you are ready, we will be able to show available clinic donor profiles within 3-6 months of this date. If you have not made contact in 6 months, you will return to the bottom of the waiting list.



The donor non-identifying information is provided in hard copy to recipients once a baby resulting from the donation is born.

7. Start treatment

Depending on your requirements, the IUI/DI or IVF Journey Planner will explain how your menstrual cycle is monitored by our Repromed staff to ensure that the appropriate time is scheduled for your insemination. Please refer to this book for a full explanation of this process.

KNOWN VERSUS UNKNOWN DONORS

There are two types of sperm donor arrangements at Repromed:

- a. Use of a clinic donor, who donate their sperm to a recipient who is not known to the donor
- b. Use of a known or personal donor, where the sperm donor is a friend, relative or acquaintance.

Both types of donor arrangements require a similar amount of planning and minimum of two counselling sessions for the recipient. Known donor arrangements require a counselling session between the donor and the recipients to ensure that all parties have given adequate consideration to their future relationships with the potential child and one another.

Clinic donor's identifying information is protected and confidential. If however, both the donor and recipient express interest in information sharing and/or meeting, this can be facilitated through our clinic counsellors.

Overall, it is essential that all sperm donors agree to be identifiable to any resulting children seeking contact when they reach 18 years.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

The Human Assisted Reproductive Technology (HART) Act 2004 is the act in NZ that provides a framework for regulating assisted reproductive procedures. The relevant details about donor sperm is provided below:

- Donors must be a minimum age of 18 years however at Repromed the average age is 35 years
- The recipient woman/couple (where applicable) are the legal parent/s, and therefore the donor has no rights or responsibilities (including child support) to the child/children born as a result of his donation

- The status of Children Amendment Act 2004 covers the legal issues associated with donor treatment
- In New Zealand, a child born from the use of donated sperm is, on reaching the age of 18 years, entitled to full identifying information on the donor
- Once a child is born as a result of sperm donation, the donor coordinator contacts the recipient for information related to the child's birth. The recording of the birth is governed by the HART (Human Assisted Reproductive Technologies) Act 2004, where details about the birth, the parents of the child, and the donor, must be recorded on a central register which is maintained by the Department of Internal Affairs, Births, Deaths and Marriages.

DONOR SCREENING

There are a number of tests that donors undergo to ensure you have the highest possible chance of having a healthy child that is not at risk of any illness or disease. Below are the tests that sperm donors have:

Blood test for:

- HIV
- Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C
- Syphilis
- CMV IgG/IgM (cytomegalovirus)
- Karyotyping
- Blood Group
- Full blood count
- HTVL

One urine test for:

- Chlamydia
- Gonorrhoea

One saliva test for three of the most common severe genetic conditions:

- Fragile X
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Spinal Muscular Atrophy

For known sperm donors, the partner (if applicable), is also required to have a single blood test for HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and Syphilis.

3 months after the donor's initial blood tests, he is required to have one more blood test for HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and Syphilis in order for the donated sperm samples to be released from quarantine. The quarantine period covers the small risk that viruses may be undetectable in the first test if the donor had been in the early stages of exposure of these viruses at that time.

MANAGEMENT OF FROZEN SPERM FOR RECIPIENTS OF CLINIC DONORS

Repromed has a policy of allowing up to 5 families and a maximum of 10 children for each clinic sperm donor. To achieve this, we ask donors to store at least 6 sperm samples. Only 3 recipients are permitted to use the same donor at the same time to ensure that the maximum number of children is not exceeded and there is enough remaining for a second child per recipient if possible. Note: Recipients of clinic donors are not required to pay annual storage of sperm.

FOR RECIPIENTS OF KNOWN DONORS MANAGEMENT OF FROZEN SPERM

The ongoing storage, use or disposal of the frozen sperm from known donors, is the responsibility of the recipient therefore it is essential that Repromed is kept informed of any changes in your contact details. Recipients of known donors receive an annual Repromed invoice for this storage (refer to the Costs sheet on the Website for details).

CONSENT FORMS

You, and your partner (if applicable) will be required to complete the following consent forms and questionnaires prior to treatment with donor sperm:

- Privacy consent
- Personal health questionnaires
- Sperm recipient consent with IUI, or Sperm recipient consent with IVF/ICSI
- Treatment summary (a new one for every treatment cycle)
- Non-identifying information for Known Donors (optional)

COSTS

The fee schedule for appointments and treatments is available on the Repromed website and provided as part of your journey planner pack of information at your first clinic visit. When the appropriate treatment has been decided, our staff are available to discuss the costs in details with you. You may choose to do this before you make your decision, when raising questions regarding your treatment, or at any later date. Note that the treatment fee schedule is updated annually on the 31st March and subject to change.

Please read this information in conjunction with the Donor Insemination Journey Planner.

The consent forms that you will be signing refer to this information sheet and the IUI and DI Journey Planner and you will be asked to sign that you have read and understood this information when signing the consents forms.