



## Being a recipient of donor eggs

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In this information sheet, you will find specific information on being a recipient of donor egg treatment at Repromed. It is intended to be read in partnership with the IVF 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 would not be able to have children without the generous help of an egg donor. The decision to use donated eggs involves many considerations, including potential long term psychological, social, health and legal implications. The donor team at Repromed, including the donor coordinator, doctors, counsellors, 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 who have decided to donate their eggs to help another person or couple who want to be parents. They could be personally known to you, or a donor found by the clinic. The optimal age for women to donate their eggs is between 20-36 years of age.

Every egg donor at Repromed undergoes medical and counselling consultations, as well as screening for genetic conditions and infectious diseases.

### WHAT IS INVOLVED

#### 1. Contact our donor coordinator

The first contact you 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 egg treatment works at Repromed, and arrange 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 eggs. The doctor will go through your medical history (for both partners if applicable) and perform a physical examination, which will most likely include a transvaginal ultrasound scan.

#### 3. Next steps

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

- a. Advertising for an egg donor OR
- b. Making contact with your potential known egg donor to organise information and initial appointments, including an AMH blood test.



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#### 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 required 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 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 donor egg treatment must fully understand and sign consent forms relating to the medical procedures and the donation Process. There are two types of egg donor arrangements at Repromed:

- a. Use of a clinic donor, or recruited donor who donates their eggs to a recipient who is not known to either party.
- b. Use of a known or personal donor, where the egg donor is a friend, relative or acquaintance.

Clinic egg donors are extremely rare and we would advise you to look at recruiting a donor through friends and family or advertising for a donor. We can help you write your advertisement and provide ideas about where to advertise. We can also manage potential donors who respond to your advertisement.

If a clinic egg donor becomes available a matching process occurs as both donors and intended parent/s may have considerations to take into account. The potential donor will be offered your non-identifying profile and you theirs.

Each clinic egg donor is given a unique number and this is referred to during matching and throughout your treatment including consent forms. The profiles have been written by the donors themselves and include non-identifying information about their physical appearance, family, education, occupation and interests.

Viewing of non-identifying profiles is undertaken at Repromed with our counsellors. The profiles 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 both parties are agreeable the donor treatment cycle can go ahead. You, and your partner (where applicable) will be required to complete the following consent forms and questionnaires prior to treatment with donor eggs:

- Privacy consent
- Health questionnaires
- Egg recipient consent with IVF/ICSI
- IVF/ICSI procedures consent
- Treatment summary (a new one for every treatment cycle)
- Frozen Embryo Transfer consent (FET) if applicable
- Non-identifying information for known donors (optional) or clinic donors (required)

#### 6. Start treatment

Treatment involves using IVF (In Vitro Fertilisation) to collect eggs from the donor's ovaries. These eggs are then fertilised with the sperm from your partner/sperm donor. Note that your partner (if applicable) will need to provide a sperm sample on the day of egg collection. If a sperm donor is being used, then the sperm will be thawed on the day of egg collection.

Suitable embryos will either be transferred into your uterus fresh during the same cycle or frozen to transfer at another time. The 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 embryo transfer. Please refer to the IVF Journey Planner for a full explanation of this process.

#### WHAT THE LAW SAYS

The Human Assisted Reproductive Technology (HART) Act 2004 provides a framework for regulating assisted reproductive procedures. The relevant details about donor egg is provided below:

- Donors must be a minimum age of 18 years.
- The intended parent/s 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 their 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 eggs 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 egg donation, the donor coordinator contacts the intended parent/s for information related to the child's birth. The recording of the birth is governed by the HART Act 2004 (Human Assisted Reproductive Technology), 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.

## CLINIC VERSUS KNOWN DONORS

Both types of donor arrangements require a similar amount of planning and minimum of two counselling sessions. Counselling is required for all intended parent/s. Known donor arrangements also require a counselling session between the donor and the intended parent/s to ensure that all parties have given adequate consideration to their future relationships with the potential child/children and one another.

Identifying information of clinic donors is protected and confidential. However, if 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 egg donors agree to be identifiable to any resulting children seeking contact when they reach 18 years. Details of donors, donor conceived children and their guardians are held at the Department of Internal Affairs Births, Deaths and Marriages. All these factors will be discussed with you in counselling.



The donor non-identifying information is provided in hard copy to the intended parent/s at 20 weeks gestation.

## DONOR SCREENING REQUIRED

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 egg donors will have carried out:

### Blood test for:

- AMH (Anti-Mullerian hormone)
- HIV
- Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C
- Syphilis
- CMV IgG/IgM (cytomegalovirus)
- Karyotyping
- Blood Group + Rh Factor
- Full blood count
- HTLV I & II
- Rubella
- TSH (thyroid stimulating hormone)

### One urine test for:

- Chlamydia
- Gonorrhoea

### One VCGS saliva test for three of the most common severe genetic conditions (optional):

- Fragile X
- Spinal Muscular Atrophy
- Cystic Fibrosis

Please note, if you choose not to do VCGS testing, Cystic Fibrosis will be added to the donors blood tests.

The donor's partner (if applicable) will also be required to have a single blood test for HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and Syphilis, prior to the start of the egg donation cycle.

3 months after the egg donor's initial blood tests, they will be required to have one more blood test for HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and Syphilis to start the egg donation cycle. 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 to these viruses at that time.

## MANAGEMENT OF FROZEN EMBRYO/S FOR INTENDED PARENT/S OF DONOR EGG

Once created, the embryo/s belong to you as the intended parent/s. The ongoing storage, use or disposal of the frozen embryos created using donor eggs is the responsibility of you as the intended parent/s, therefore it is essential that Repromed is kept informed of any changes in your contact details. You will receive an annual Repromed invoice for storage of embryos (refer to the Costs sheet on the Repromed website for details).

## EGG DONOR REIMBURSEMENT

Every egg donor is offered reimbursement, whether it be a known or clinic donor. This reimbursement fee is paid by the intended parent/s and reflects the expense, time and effort donors experience throughout the treatment cycle. Some donors choose not to receive this reimbursement and we will advise you of this decision. Following the egg collection, we will arrange the agreed reimbursement via bank transfer into the donors account within 2-3 working days. Please note if the egg donor lives outside of Auckland, all costs associated with the donation need to be arranged and paid for privately by you as the recipient, including travel costs and accommodation in Auckland.

## 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, the donor coordinator is available to discuss the costs in detail with you. You may choose to do this before you make your decision, when raising questions regarding your treatment, or at any later date. An invoice will be sent to you for the donor reimbursement fee and the donor preparation fee after the egg donor has had their medical consultation and is okay to proceed. A further invoice for treatment costs will be sent to you once the donor starts their treatment cycle.

### Please read this information in conjunction with the IVF Journey Planner.

Refer to this information sheet and the IVF Journey Planner before starting treatment. You will be asked to sign that you have read and understood this information in the consent forms.