



# Intended parents of donor sperm information sheet

In this information sheet, you will find specific information on being the recipient of donor sperm at Repromed.



## WHO NEEDS HELP

There are many people who would 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 coordinators, doctors, counsellors, nurses and scientists are here to support you through the process and answer any questions you may have.

## WHO ARE OUR DONORS

Our donors are amazing people who have decided to donate their sperm 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 to donate sperm is between 20-40 years of age.

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

## WHAT IS INVOLVED

### 1. Meet our Repromed doctor

One of our Repromed doctors will go through the process of treatments we offer using donated sperm. The doctor will go through your medical history (for both partners where applicable) and perform a physical examination, which will most likely include a transvaginal ultrasound scan.

### 2. Donor coordinator contact

Following the appointment with the doctor, the donor coordinator will guide you through the process and discuss one/both of the following options:

### a. Treatment with a clinic donor:

The Donor coordinator will confirm that you have been placed on the clinic sperm donor wait list. You will be advised of the approximate wait list time, please note the waitlist time is likely to fluctuate. If your circumstances change and you no longer wish to remain on the waitlist, it is very important to inform us either via email or phone.

### b. Treatment with a known donor:

You will need to provide the donor coordinator with your known donors details in order to organise donor registration (including donors partner where applicable), initial appointments and a semen analysis.

### 3. First visit with 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).

#### 4. 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 sperm donor arrangements at Repromed:

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

You, and your partner (where 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 recipient/s of known donors (optional) or clinic donors (required).

#### 5. Choosing a clinic donor (if not using 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 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 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 within 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.

#### 6. Start treatment

Donor Insemination (DI) involves carefully timed insemination with donor sperm. Alternatively treatment may involve using In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) to collect your eggs. The donor sperm will be thawed on the day of egg collection and used to fertilise the eggs. Suitable embryos will either be transferred into your uterus fresh during the same cycle or frozen to transfer at another time. The 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/embryo transfer. Please refer to the journey planner for a full explanation of these processes.

#### 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 sperm 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 VERSES KNOWN DONORS

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.

### GOOD TO KNOW

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 sperm donors will have carried out:

### Blood test for:

- HIV
- Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C
- Syphilis
- CMV IgG/IgM (cytomegalovirus)
- Karyotyping
- Blood Group and Rh Factor
- Full blood count
- HTLV I and II

### One urine test for:

- Chlamydia
- Gonorrhoea

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

- Fragile X
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Spinal Muscular Atrophy

Please note, if you choose not to do VCGS testing, Cystic Fibrosis will be added to the donors blood tests and the donor coordinator will remove the genetic fee.

Three months after the donor's last banking appointment, they will be required to have one more blood test for HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and Syphilis to release the samples 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 to these viruses at that time.

## MANAGEMENT OF FROZEN SPERM FOR INTENDED PARENT/S 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. Note: Intended parent/s of clinic donors are not required to pay annual storage of sperm.

## MANAGEMENT OF FROZEN EMBRYO/S FOR INTENDED PARENT/S OF KNOWN DONOR SPERM

Once created, the embryo/s belong to you as the intended parent/s. The ongoing storage, use or disposal of the frozen sperm from known donors, 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 (please refer to the Costs sheet on our website for details).

## 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 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. Note that the treatment fee schedule is updated annually on the 31st March and subject to change.

Please read this information in conjunction with your Repromed journey planner. The consent forms that you will be signing refer to this information sheet and the journey planner and you will be asked to sign that you have read and understood this information when signing the consents forms.