



Donating your eggs at Repromed

Donating eggs is an incredible gift you can give to help someone in real need. It's a decision that requires thoughtful consideration. This overview will give you an understanding of the criteria and process involved.



WHO NEEDS HELP

There are many people who would not be able to have children without the generous help of someone else. Each situation is unique, but donor recipients have made the decision that having a family is important enough to go through a significant emotional and physical journey to reach their goal. The decision to donate involves many considerations, including potential long term psychological, social, health and legal implications.

If you're considering being an egg donor, you can make a wonderful contribution. Your donation could be truly life changing for another person or couple.

WHO IS SUITABLE

The first thing to understand is that donating must be altruistic – driven from a need of wanting to help others. Egg donation criteria includes:-

- Being aged between 21 – 36 years old
- NZ citizen or NZ permanent resident
- Ideally have completed your family
- You look after yourself - you do not smoke, binge drink or use recreational drugs
- You're healthy – free from any major illness, disease or genetic condition that pose an unacceptable risk of being passed on to a donor conceived child
- You're a genuine, thoughtful person who is comfortable that you may be contacted in the future by a resultant child or children, as they can request your identifying information from the age of 18. Legally however, as a donor, you will have no responsibility for any child resulting from your donation.

WHAT IS INVOLVED

1. Donor Coordinator contact

Our donor coordinator will 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. Donor Screening

There are a number of tests that donors undergo to ensure the highest possible chance of creating embryos that are 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
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Spinal Muscular Atrophy

Please note, if the intended parent/s choose not to do VCGS testing, Cystic Fibrosis will be added to your blood tests.

If you have a partner/spouse, they will also be required to have a single blood test for HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and Syphilis.

3 months after your initial blood tests, you will be required to have one more blood test for HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and Syphilis to start the egg donation cycle.

3. Meet our Repromed doctor

One of our Repromed doctors will go through and explain the process of egg donation. 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.

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 potential donors and intended parent/s have discussed and understand a range of topics pertinent to the welfare of the potential child, the donor, the intended parent/s 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 egg donation 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. A clinic donor or recruited donor who donates their eggs to a recipient who is not known to either party
- b. Known or personal donor, who donate to a friend, relative or acquaintance

If you are willing to be a clinic egg donor a matching process occurs as both donors and intended parent/s may have considerations to take into account. The potential intended parent's 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 treatment including consent forms. The profiles will have been written by you as the egg donor and will include non-identifying information about your 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. 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 undergoing an egg donor cycle:

- Donor Privacy and blood screening consent
- Health questionnaire
- Donor Medical/Genetic History
- Gamete Donor Non-identifying information for known donors (optional) or clinic donors (required)
- Egg donor consent
- Partner of egg donor consent (where applicable)
- Egg donor IVF/ICSI procedures consent
- Treatment summary (a new one for every treatment cycle)

6. Start treatment

Treatment involves using IVF (In Vitro Fertilisation) to collect eggs from your ovaries which are then fertilised in the lab with sperm provided by the intended parent/s to create embryos. 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 egg collection. The donor coordination can send you the link to this.



WHAT THE LAW SAYS

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

- Minimum age of 18
- The recipient/couple are the legal parent/s, and therefore you have no rights or responsibilities (including child support) to the child/children born as a result of your 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 a donated egg is, on reaching the age of 18 years, entitled to identifying information on the donor
- The recording of the birth is governed by the HART (Human Assisted Reproductive Technology) 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



Repromed has a policy of maximum 5 families created per donor.

EGG DONOR REIMBURSEMENT

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. We offer every egg donor reimbursement, whether it be a known or clinic donor. This reimbursement is compensation for reasonable expenses you may experience throughout the donation process, and is discussed with you at the time of your medical consultation. Please inform your doctor or donor coordinator of your decision for donor reimbursement.

INTERESTED?

The contribution you are considering making could be life changing. It's not a quick process because of its importance – the ambitious goal is creating life. We have a shortage of egg donors and you will be providing hope for recipient/s on their fertility journey.

CLINIC VERSUS KNOWN DONORS

Both types of donors undergo a similar workup and minimum of two counselling sessions. Counselling is mandatory for all donors and their partners (if applicable). Known donors have an additional joint counselling session with their recipients to ensure that all parties have given adequate consideration to their future relationships with the potential child and one another.

The identifying information of clinic donors is protected. 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 egg donors agree to be identifiable to any resulting children seeking contact when they reach 18 years. Details of donors, offspring 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.

Call 0800 483 105 or email donors@repromed.co.nz to sign up.

repromed.co.nz