Sperm Donation
Patient Information
Becoming a sperm donor

MelbourneIVF
Excellence in fertility care

Contents

Introduction

The decision to use donated sperm will have a significant impact on the people who achieve a family through the donor program and upon the children in the family.

This booklet provides the information necessary to assist sperm donors to make informed decisions in regards to donating sperm, including legal rights and responsibilities and social issues.

Melbourne IVF's donor program nurse is the point of contact, to provide information and guidance on the procedures and processes involved in becoming a sperm donor. We encourage you to contact the donor program nurse at any stage by phoning 03 9473 4428 or by emailing donor@mivf.com.au.

General information

What is sperm donation?

Sperm donation refers to the use of sperm, donated by a third person who is referred to as the 'donor', to assist an individual or couple, known as the 'recipient(s)', in their attempt to become parents. Donors are known as either 'recipient recruited' or 'clinic recruited' donors depending on the relationship between the donor and recipient.

Recipient recruited donors

Recipient recruited donors donate their sperm to specified named recipient(s), usually a relative or friend.

Clinic recruited donors

Clinic recruited donors donate their sperm to the IVF clinic for allocation to unknown recipients.

Who can use donated sperm?

Using donated sperm is an option for many patients who are unable to conceive for a variety of reasons. Donor insemination or the use of donor sperm is a possible option when a male has a diagnosis of infertility, carries a serious genetic disease, or has an infectious disease. The Melbourne IVF donor sperm program is also an option for same sex couples and single women.

Who can be a sperm donor?

Donors can be recruited by Melbourne IVF (clinic recruited) or the couple/woman may recruit their own donor (recipient recruited). Donors should be healthy men aged between 25 and 45 years. Recipient recruited donors may be over 45 years of age.

In some instances, for potential recipient recruited sperm donors, a clinical psychiatrist review and presentation of the case to the Clinical Review Committee for approval, is required prior to proceeding. These include cases where the potential recipient recruited donor:

- is under 25 years of age;
- has offspring under 12 months of age or whose partner is pregnant; and
- intergenerational donation is proposed e.g. son to father.

The donor process may only commence once these requirements are satisfied and approval granted by the Clinical Review Committee.

Medical and andrology appointments will be scheduled for the donor during which medical history will be reviewed and semen analysis conducted. The donor is required to complete a Genetic and Medical Health Questionnaire and Sperm Donation Statement.

Can I be paid to be a sperm donor?

No, donating sperm is a purely altruistic gift. In Australia it is illegal to receive or make any type of payment for human tissue, including donated sperm. Under the Prohibition of Human Cloning Act 2008 (Victorian legislation), donors may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred during the donation process, such as travel and parking, however they cannot be compensated for loss of work time.

Quarantine period

Sperm donation in Victoria is governed by the Public Health and Wellbeing Act (2008) s152, which states that donated sperm be quarantined for a six month period. The donor is tested for infectious diseases immediately prior to the first donation and six months after the last donation.

Sperm donation – what is involved?

Becoming a sperm donor involves attending a series of pre-donation appointments. One of the first steps is to attend a minimum of two counselling appointments.

Counselling appointments

In Victoria it is a legislative requirement that recipients (and their partners if applicable) and donors meet with a counsellor to discuss the implications of sperm donation. It is a Melbourne IVF requirement based on NHMRC ethical guidelines that donors' partners (if applicable) also attend the counselling sessions. This is an opportunity to consider the issues and implications associated with their decision to be involved in the donor program and to make an informed decision.

At least two counselling sessions are scheduled for donors and their partners (if applicable). For some recipient recruited sperm donors there may be a combined counselling session with their recipient, if there are common issues to discuss. This will be scheduled at the counsellor's discretion. Consent forms are signed with the counsellor.

Donors may contact or schedule further appointments with the counsellors to discuss questions or concerns at any stage of the treatment process. Counselling appointments are available at East Melbourne, The Women's Hospital or at the Melbourne IVF local clinics.

It is important to consider the following issues as they will be explored in the counselling sessions:

Becoming a clinic recruited sperm donor – issues to consider:

- Why you wish to become a sperm donor.
- How many families you wish to be created as a result of your donation (there is currently a legislated maximum of ten women who may have children conceived from one donor's sperm. This includes the donor's current or previous relationships, though there may be more than one child per family).
- Whether you wish to know if a child is conceived as a result of your donation. Information is available from Melbourne IVF. Donors will also be notified by Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM) that a birth resulting from their donation has been recorded on the Central Register. This register is maintained by BDM and records all births resulting from donor treatment in Victoria.
- How will you feel about a child conceived from your donation?
- How will you feel if the donor conceived child wishes to contact you at 18 years of age or wants earlier contact?
- What your children should know (if applicable).
- What should your family and friends be told.

Becoming a Recipient Recruited Sperm Donor – additional issues to consider:

- How your donation, whether successful or not, is likely to impact on your relationship with the recipient(s) and/ or your own relationships.
- Who else should you tell?

Following the counselling appointments, if you meet the donor eligibility criteria and wish to proceed with the donation, further appointments will be required these include pathology collection, andrology and medical.

Pathology collection

The Melbourne IVF phlebotomist will take screening blood tests for HIV (AIDS), Hepatitis B & C, Syphilis and Cytomegalovirus, Human T-Lymphotropic Virus (HTLV)

1 & 2, Cystic Fibrosis and Thalassaemia. Further genetic screening may be ordered as appropriate.

The hours for this service are as follows:

Monday	7.30 – 2.00
Tuesday - Friday	7.30 – 4.30
Saturday	7.30 – 3.30

Semen analysis appointment

All clinic and recipient recruited sperm donors are required to undergo a semen analysis to assess the quality of sperm, prior to proceeding with donation. This will be a scheduled appointment with the andrology department where you will be required to provide a sample for analysis.

Medical appointment

The medical appointment is scheduled to follow the counselling, phlebotomist and semen analysis appointments.

All sperm donors are required to attend a medical appointment with the Sperm Donor Program Fertility Specialist. This will involve a review of the donor's medical history, a physical examination and medical assessment of suitability to become a sperm donor. The Fertility Specialist will also discuss the results of the screening blood tests and semen analysis. All donors are required to complete a Sperm Donation Statement and Genetic and Medical Health Questionnaire. Any issues that arise from the completion of these forms will be discussed during this medical appointment and if necessary referred to a Geneticist for review.

Donation appointments

Once the sperm has been accepted for donation, the donor is required to schedule a series of appointments with the andrology department to provide sperm donation samples. This will involve approximately 2-4 donation appointments for Recipient Recruited sperm donors and approximately 4-6 donation appointments for Clinic Recruited sperm donors.

The donated sperm is then quarantined for six months from the date of the last donation.

Clearance for use

At the end of the six month quarantine period, sperm donors are contacted to return for final screening blood tests to allow clearance of the sperm for use.

Clinic recruited donor sperm allocation

Recipients are sent donor profiles (these consist of non identifying donor information and Genetic and Medical Health Questionnaire) once the counselling consent form has been signed, prior to commencing treatment. This assists a recipient to select an appropriate donor for them.

Preparing for treatment (Recipient Recruited & Clinic Recruited Donors)

Recipient Recruited Donor

Contact Donor Program Nurse
Donor Program Nurse explains process and forwards information to potential donor. Donor nurse organises subsequent counselling, nursing, andrology and medical appointments for donor.

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Counselling Appointment
Discuss implications of being a sperm donor and paperwork completed.

Clinic Recruited Donor

Contact Donor Program Nurse
Donor Program Nurse explains process and forwards information to potential donor. If donor is interested in proceeding, the first step is to attend a counselling appointment, which both the donor and partner (if applicable) must attend.

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Counselling Appointment
Discuss implications of being a sperm donor and paperwork completed.

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Contact Donor Program nurse
Donor Program Nurse provides further information regarding process to be fulfilled prior to commencing treatment, and sends information pack. Should donor wish to proceed, further appointments are scheduled at this time.

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Counselling Appointment (2)
Second counselling appointment with same counsellor.
Donor and partner (if applicable) attend to review issues and sign consents.

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Phlebotomist Appointment
Pre quarantine screening blood tests undertaken.

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Andrology Appointment
Semen analysis undertaken.

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Medical Appointment – Sperm Donor Program Doctor
Organised for 2 – 4 weeks after screening tests and semen analysis undertaken at Reproductive Services at the Women's Hospital. Medical history is obtained, physical examination undertaken, test results reviewed, donor's medical eligibility assessed. In some instances a genetic review will be organised.

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Andrology Appointments
Recipient recruited donors: Andrology organises approximately 2-4 appointments to make donations.
Clinic recruited donors: Andrology organises approximately 4-6 appointments to make donations.
Quarantine of samples commences from the day the final donation is made.

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Six months – blood test
Donor Program Nurse organises blood test appointment for donor six months after their last donation.
All test results and documents are then reviewed by the Sperm Donor Program Fertility Specialist.

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Profile offered to potential recipients

Legislative requirements: Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 2008

The Melbourne IVF Donor Program is guided by the legislative requirements under the Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 2008. Under this legislation the following important information applies:

1 A donor's consent lapses after 10 years, unless a lesser period is specified by the donor.

2 The legislation provides that treatment using a sperm donor may not result in more than 10 women having children who are genetic siblings, including the donor and any current or former partner of the donor. This does not prevent women using gametes / embryos produced by the donor to produce a child that will be a genetic sibling to the woman's existing children.

3 The person who produced the gametes (eggs & sperm) from which the embryo has been formed must consent to embryo storage period beyond 5 years and also must consent to the removal of the embryo(s) from storage.

4 The import or export of donor gametes or embryos formed from donor gametes in or out of Victoria must have written approval from the Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority (VARTA). Melbourne IVF will only approve the export of clinic recruited donor sperm in exceptional circumstances if there is sufficient sperm available. Melbourne IVF is required to give the donor written notice of the name of the clinic to which their sperm or embryo(s) created from their sperm has been exported.

5 It is an offence under the ART Act 2008 to knowingly or recklessly give false or misleading information or omit to give material information.

6 Posthumous use of donor gametes is not possible.

Status of children

- Where donor sperm was used by a married woman or a woman in a bona fide domestic relationship with a male, the woman and her husband / partner shall be presumed for all purposes to be the mother and father of any child born as a result of the pregnancy.
- Where donor sperm was used by a woman with a female partner or a woman with no partner, the donor who produced the sperm is presumed not to be the father of any child born as a result the pregnancy.

Birth registration

- Melbourne IVF must provide Information regarding births of donor conceived offspring to Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM), who will maintain the Central and Voluntary donor registers.
- If the birth registration statement indicates that the chid was conceived by a donor treatment, the Registrar must mark the words "donor conceived" against the entry of the child's birth in the register.
- If the donor conceived offspring applies for a birth certificate after 18 years of age the Registrar must attach an addendum to the certificate stating further information is available about this entry.
- The Registrar is only able to issue the addendum to the donor conceived person named in the entry on the register.

I understand that Births, Deaths & Marriages will contact me in writing to verify the information Melbourne IVF provides Births, Deaths & Marriages about me when my details are first entered on the Births, Deaths & Marriages central register (ie when the first donor conceived child is born). I also understand that it is my responsibility to notify Births, Deaths & Marriages of any change to my contact details.

Melbourne IVF encourages all individuals/couples to seek independent legal advice before donating gametes/embryos or using a gamete or embryo donor.

Please contact the counselling department if you have any further questions.

Contacts and resources

Resource	Telephone	Web-email contacts
Melbourne IVF	03 9473 4444	www.mivf.com.au
Donor Program Nurse	03 9473 4428	donor@mivf.com.au
Counsellors Melbourne IVF	03 9473 4444	
Counsellors Reproductive Services Unit The Women's Hospital	03 8345 3227	
Nurses Melbourne IVF	03 9473 4444	
Nurses Reproductive Services Unit	03 8345 3227	
Patient Liaison Team Administration	03 9473 4444	
VARTA – Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority	03 8601 5250	www.varta@varta.org.au
BDM -Births, Deaths and Marriage	1300 369 367	www.bdm.vic.gov.au
Donor conception Support Group	02 9793 9335	dcsg@optushome.com.au www.dcsg.org.au
Donor Conception Network UK		enquiries@dcnetwork.org www.dcnetwork.org

Books

Daniels K. *Building a Family with the Assistance of Donor Insemination.*
Palmerston North: Dunmore Press; 2004

Ehrensaft D. *Mommies, Daddies, Donors, Surrogates; Answering Tough Questions and Building Strong Families.*
New York (NY): Guilford Press; 2005

Rawlings D, Looi K. *Swimming Upstream: The Struggle to Conceive.*
South Australia: Landmark Media; 2006

Notes

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Melbourne IVF

Phone
New Public Enquiries 1800 111 IVF (483)
Melbourne IVF Reception (03) 9473 4444

www.mivf.com.au

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