

Information for Sperm Donors



12.6.1

Donor sperm is used by a couple where the male has an untreatable form of infertility. Although most donor sperm is used for heterosexual couples, *The Human Reproductive Technology Act 1991 (HRT act)* allows for donor sperm insemination of single women and women in a same sex relationship.

DONOR REGISTER

A Donor Register of all sperm donors is held confidentially by the W.A Department of Health and is required under the *HRT act*. Concept must supply the donor register with all donors' details including identifying information such as name and date of birth. Amendments to the *HRT act* in 2004 allow (on request) the release of identifying information to children of donors when they reach the age of 16. Non-identifying information such as physical characteristics is available to recipients of donor sperm.

As a donor you are also able to access non-identifying information. Eg The number of families using the samples, the number of children born, their sex and their year of birth.

Cross checking of donors between clinics occurs as soon as you are accepted as a sperm donor.

THE FIVE FAMILY LIMIT

Concept continues to use a donor until births have been achieved in five (5) separate families in Western Australia. Those families may use the same donor for subsequent pregnancies.

VOLUNTARY REGISTER

The Voluntary Register provides a way for people involved in ART services using donated human reproductive material to share information. Prior to December 2004 the release of identifying information was only provided with the donors consent. More information about the Voluntary Register can be found on the Reproductive Technology Council website www.rtc.org.

WHO ARE THE CHILD'S LEGAL PARENTS?

Legislation in Western Australia and other States of Australia (*Artificial Conception Act 1985*) declares that the child conceived by a treatment involving the use of donated

reproductive material is the legal child of the woman who gave birth and her consenting husband or defacto partner (if any). The donor has no legal rights or duties.

It is Concept's policy to obtain a signature from the partner (if any) of the woman undertaking donor insemination. It is presumed that the husband/de facto partner has consented to the treatment although this is rebuttable. If it is established that a husband/de facto partner has not consented they will not be a legal parent of the child.

DONOR SCREENINGS & PROCESS TO BECOMING A SPERM DONOR

If you wish to become a Sperm Donor you should make an appointment to see the Scientific Director or the Sperm Donor Co-ordinator to discuss all issues involved with donation.

It is important that donors have normal healthy sperm so a sperm test is required. After you have had your initial consultation at Concept you can make an appointment for the sperm test by telephoning Concept Fertility Centre on 9382 2388.

You will also be required to see Concept's Medical Consultant. A medical check-up is required to assess your current and review your past health and to obtain a family medical history. The medical consultation is carried out at Clinipath, 310 Selby Street North, Osborne Park 9371 4536. At your convenience please telephone and make an appointment to see Dr Ram Tampi. Please note that if a donor knowingly withholds any information on any genetic or health condition that he has, he will be held legally liable for any legal action that may be brought about as a result of any child being born with that genetic disease.

It is essential that donors do not have any infectious diseases so screening tests for HIV, Hep B and C, HTLV, and sexually transmitted diseases must be done at Concept Fertility Centre Monday to Friday 8am to 2.00pm. A cystic fibrosis screening test and blood group assessment will also be done.

There are many issues surrounding sperm donation so it is important to be fully informed and aware. Therefore it is a requirement that all donors and recipients attend a counselling session. An appointment to see a Concept Fertility Centre counsellor can be made by telephoning 9382 2388. If you are married or in a defacto relationship your partner must also attend counselling.

At the completion of the screening process please phone Concept to confirm your status as a sperm donor (NB: only 50% of men wishing to be sperm donors are accepted). You can then book you for your first donation.

DONATION PHASE

To donate we require you to book the collection room for a time that suits you (Mon - Friday 7.30am - 14.00). Some donors book weekly and have a set day and time. We ask that you refrain from sexual relations for 3 days prior to the donation. Generally no more than 25 samples will be required from each donor.

After approximately 6 months you will be asked to have another blood test to check that all your screening tests performed earlier are still negative. Upon confirmation of this your sample's can be released from quarantine and available for allocation to recipients. Please keep us updated on changes of address so that you can be contacted regarding the blood test.

We thank you sincerely for your consideration and if you wish further information please call the Scientific Director at Concept on: (08) 9382 2388 or email concept@conceptfertility.com.au.

Sperm Donor Checklist

- Meeting with Scientific Director or Sperm Donor Coordinator
- Sperm test to check suitability
- Counselling session
- Screening tests for HIV, HTLV, Hepatitis, syphilis, Cystic Fibrosis and blood group
- Medical consultation

Reimbursement

Concept recognizes the valuable time commitment made by donors and although the donations are altruistic and no payments can be made, you can be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred during the donation process. Please discuss this with the Scientific Director if necessary.

Contact Us

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