

WHAT WILL RECIPIENTS AND OFFSPRING BE TOLD ABOUT DONORS?

Recipients may be given non-identifying information about their donors if they request it. People born as a result of donation will be able to find out the identity of their donor when they reach the age of 18 if they request this.

As a donor

- You will not be told the identity of the recipients of your eggs
- You have no legal right of access to, or parental or financial responsibility for, any children resulting from your egg donation
- You will be able to find out how many children are born as a result of your donation
- You may be contacted in the future by people over the age of 18 born as a result of your donation

If you think you could help a couple have a child by being an egg donor please return the enclosed Reply Sheet in the envelope provided.

This does not commit you to anything.

An appointment will be arranged to discuss the programme in more detail.

Donor Co-ordinator - Lorraine Stewart Tel: 01224-553612

Full current information and regulations about donation can be found on the following websites:

www.aberdeenfertility.org.uk	Aberdeen Fertility Centre
www.hfea.gov.uk	HFEA
www.ngdt.co.uk	National Gamete Donation Trust



Patient Information Egg Donor Introductory Information

WHAT IS AN EGG DONOR?

An egg donor is a woman who produces eggs, which she then donates for another woman to enable her to have a child. Egg donors must be between the age of 18 and 35 and be fit and healthy.

WHY DO WE NEED EGG DONORS?

To help couples who otherwise would be unable to have children.

Donated eggs are needed where couples are unable to have a baby because the woman does not produce any eggs herself, or because the eggs she does produce are unlikely to produce a healthy child. This could be due to a variety of medical conditions or treatment such as:

- **Premature menopause** – some women go through the menopause at a very early age – often in their teens or early twenties, and before they have had the chance to have children.
- **Previous chemotherapy or radiotherapy** - where treatment in the past for cancer has left the ovaries unable to produce eggs.
- **Chromosomal abnormalities** – some women are carriers of abnormal chromosomes which would mean they have a high risk of having a disabled child if they used their own eggs.
- **Failed In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) Treatment** – some couples have undergone IVF treatment themselves only to find that they cannot produce suitable eggs for the treatment.

These women can be helped by receiving eggs from a donor, which are mixed with their partner's sperm, and the embryos created are then placed in the woman's womb. There is a shortage of donated eggs so women who need them often face a wait of two to three years for treatment.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN DONATING EGGS?

Before being accepted as a donor

Initially three appointments at the unit will be required to record medical details, carry out screening tests for infections and hereditary diseases, and discuss the implications of donating eggs and what the treatment involves.

Donating

This involves daily injections (which you can do yourself, or get your GP or a friend to do) for two to three weeks, to stimulate your ovaries to produce eggs. Over this time you will need to attend the hospital on three or four occasions for blood tests and scans to check how the eggs are developing. Some of these appointments may be able to be arranged at Dr.Gray's Hospital in Elgin, or at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness, if this is more convenient for you. Once the eggs are ready they are removed. This is an outpatient procedure, carried out under sedation, and lasts about 30 minutes. You will need to take this day off work and will not be able to drive for 48 hours following the procedure.

ARE THERE ANY RISKS OR SIDE EFFECTS FROM THIS TREATMENT?

Hyperstimulation – sometimes the ovaries respond quickly to the medication, producing many eggs and women can feel bloated and experience lower abdominal discomfort. Severe hyperstimulation is very rare but can result in nausea and vomiting and may require hospital admission. Careful monitoring of treatment with scans and blood tests usually prevents this complication.

Infection and bleeding - all operations of any sort carry a small risk of infection and bleeding.

Ovarian Cancer - from time to time articles appear in the media about a risk of ovarian cancer connected with fertility drugs. Current research is inconclusive on this and it may be infertility that causes any increased risk rather than the drugs. If there is any increased risk it is likely to be very small especially since you will only be taking these drugs for a very short time.

Pregnancy - occasionally eggs can be missed during the egg collection procedure, and it is possible that they could be released as normal and result in pregnancy therefore you would be advised to take precautions.

DO I GET PAID FOR DONATING EGGS?

In the UK donors cannot be paid, but any out of pocket expenses such as travel costs and childcare can be reclaimed on production of receipts.

HFEA

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority sets standards for fertility centres. It is the UK's independent regulator overseeing safe and appropriate practice in fertility treatment and embryo research. The HFEA licence and monitor centres carrying out fertility treatments and Egg, Sperm and Embryo donation and provide information for patients, professionals and government.