



Thank you for indicating that you may be willing to help us by providing semen samples for our work. This sheet is to give you some information about why donors are needed, and what is involved should you decide to become a donor.

1.1 Infertility

Fertility is something that most of us take for granted. For some couples however, having a child is difficult or impossible without help, and this may be either because of male or female infertility.

In about half of all couples affected, their infertility is due to problems with the male partner. Either no sperm are produced, or those that are produced are not capable of fertilising an egg. Some of the most common reasons include testicular failure, known chromosomal abnormality and previous chemotherapy. Despite the tremendous advances in reproductive biology our understanding of the causes of male infertility, and therefore our ability to treat it remains very poor.

1.2 Infertility Treatment

For infertile couples in whom the man produces no sperm, the only "treatment" presently available is artificial insemination using sperm provided by a semen donor. This is a widely accepted and successful solution to these couples' problems, and our Centre treats about 70 new couples each year, and many of those couples do succeed in having a child.

The Aberdeen Fertility Centre therefore has a substantial and continuing need for volunteer semen donors. The Centre is registered with the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, and all aspects of the semen donor programme comply with their regulations.

1.3 What Is Involved in becoming a donor?

Men aged between 18 and 45 years and in good health could be sperm donors. Your first contact with the department is a discussion appointment, when you will be given plenty of time to discuss the donor programme with staff members. You will also be asked to complete a questionnaire about your medical history prior to this appointment.

If you decide to continue with the donor programme, you will be asked to provide a semen sample to determine its suitability for freezing and undergo a medical check including a blood test. If the results are all acceptable you can become a donor and will then be asked to complete a form giving consent to the use of your donations in the treatment of people with fertility problems.

Donors are asked to provide semen samples at mutually convenient times and intervals, which is arranged directly with the laboratory staff. The number of samples varies with each individual, but most donors provide between 10 and 20 samples over a period of 3-6 months.

All donors are required to produce their samples at the Aberdeen Fertility Centre, and we have private facilities for this. We ask that samples be produced by masturbation, after approximately 3 or 4 days of sexual abstinence, into special containers that we supply.

Legally donors cannot be paid but may claim reasonable expenses including compensation for loss of earnings.



1.4 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.

1.5 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 it.

1.6 What can donors find out about the results of their donation?

Donors can find out how many children have been born as a result of their donations, but they do not have legal right of access to, or parental or financial responsibility for, any children born as a result of their donations.

Donors will not be told the identity of the people receiving their donations.

1.7 If You Are Willing To Help

If you are willing to help us as a sperm donor please complete and return the Initial Enquiry Questionnaire ([FM-DO-0009](#)). We will then arrange a time for you to discuss the programme with us in detail.

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