

Information for Egg Donor Recipients

The following information outlines the steps for patients utilizing an anonymous egg donor for the goal of pregnancy. If a recipient instead chooses to find her own egg donor, the steps are slightly different. Our Donor Coordinator nurses can outline the steps for this situation.

Physician appointment

Existing patients need a consult with their Fertility Center physician to discuss donor egg before proceeding. New patients must schedule a new patient appointment with one of the Fertility Center physicians to discuss the donor egg recipient program—we request a copy of your current medical history from your physician’s office prior to this appointment.

Counseling

The next step is to schedule an appointment with our fertility counselor to discuss the emotional and psychological issues related to using a third party to achieve a pregnancy. There is no charge for this appointment. If the egg recipient has a partner, this person is also required to be present for the appointment. An annual appointment with our counselor is required while attempting pregnancy with an egg donor (including frozen embryo transfers).

Nurse consultation

After your case management fee is paid, a nurse consultation is required to review the medical aspects of the program: required testing, the donor screening process, and how we match you with a donor. If the egg recipient has a partner, this person is strongly encouraged to attend the nurse consultation. The cost of the nurse consult is covered by your deposit.

Donor selection

Once you have completed the above steps and preprocedure testing, the Donor Coordinator will give you a password to access our donors online at our fertility network website. These donors will be categorized as either a “fresh” match or donors in our egg bank or “frozen” eggs. All current recipients will have passwords for this list, so if you decide you like a particular donor, it is in your best interest to reserve her as soon as you are 100% sure of a match. If you are interested in a donor but want to continue looking at other profiles, you can select a donor as your first or second choice but they still remain available to other recipients to select. We will review this process with you when you are given a password so you understand it fully.

Once a donor is selected, the Donor Coordinator will coordinate the timing of the procedure. All remaining fees are due at this time.

If you would like to give your chosen donor a card or small gift, we will be happy to pass it on to her for you. Cards/items need to be unsealed/unwrapped so that they can be inspected for anonymity. Please talk to the Donor Coordinator if you have questions.

In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Cycle

A matched egg recipient cycle typically takes 2 menstrual cycles to complete. If you are not having menstrual cycles, you may still proceed in approximately the same time frame. The donor takes fertility drugs to encourage the growth of multiple eggs. During this time, the recipient female also takes medications to coordinate her cycle with the egg donor's and to prepare the uterine lining for a pregnancy. If you are using frozen eggs, the timing is based on your menstrual cycle and we can control the timing of the actual transfer ahead of time.

Fresh donor eggs are retrieved and fertilized with the female recipient partner's sperm on the same day. If you are using frozen eggs, they are thawed at a specific time and fertilized with the female partner's sperm on that same day. A transfer of one to two embryos to the female recipient is usually performed two days later. A blood pregnancy test is done approximately two weeks after the transfer. A repeat blood test is needed 2-4 days following the first test. An OB Ultrasound is done 2 weeks after the blood testing to determine a viable pregnancy in the uterus. You will continue on medications (Estrace and Progesterone) for the entire first trimester until the placenta is fully developed and the Dr. will tell you when you can stop them. You will be referred to your OB/GYN Dr. after a second OBUS typically.

Additional information

If you have additional questions about donor selection or the medical aspects of using an egg donor, please talk to the Donor Coordinator at (616) 988-4602.

If you have billing or cost questions, please contact Amy at (616) 988-2229, ext. 130.