

Egg Donation Information

Who qualifies to be an egg donor?

Anonymous egg donors should meet the following requirements to be accepted into the program:

- First time donors should be between age 21 and 31
- Non-smoking/vaping for a full 3-6 months or longer (must remain non-smoking/vaping and agree to nicotine testing)
- High school grad minimum; college education preferred
- Cannot be adopted unless they have full access to their family medical background
- Normal Body Mass Index (BMI of 30 or less): Calculator: <http://nhlbisupport.com/bmi/>
Note that donors with BMIs of 28 or higher are harder to match with recipients
- No history of severe endometriosis
- No genetic disorders, bipolar disorder, or significant depression in donor or immediate family
- Must be low risk for communicable disease (no history of chlamydia, gonorrhea, or syphilis)
- Donors should be off antidepressant medications for at least 3 months to begin
- A poor family medical history will make it difficult to match a donor with a recipient

What is involved?

To become an egg donor you must complete the donor application online and we will need to obtain a copy of your medical records directly from your physician's office. The information in this donor application will later be provided anonymously to recipients so they can choose an egg donor appropriate to their needs.

Following this initial screening, we will schedule you for a vaginal ultrasound and blood work to evaluate your ovaries. We will then schedule you to meet with our counselor and take the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) test. This appointment will take approximately 2 hours and can only be scheduled at our Grand Rapids office. It typically takes 1-2 weeks to receive the results of this test.

If you remain eligible after these steps, your profile will then be added to our list of available donors for recipients to review.

Once matched with a recipient

One of our donor nurses will contact you when you have been selected by a recipient. At that time we will schedule you for the following:

- FDA required testing and screening
 - Physical exam by physician
 - FDA questionnaire
 - Blood and urine testing for communicable diseases, hormone levels and recessive genetic disease screening

****At this point, some women will be found to be ineligible to donate...Not meeting these requirements does NOT mean you have fertility problems****

The donation cycle takes approximately two months and most of your appointments and the egg retrieval will occur in the second month. You will need to be available for frequent ultrasounds and blood tests, appointments occurring between 8:00am - 10:30am in the morning. Your work/school schedule should be flexible enough to allow these appointments. ***If you cannot accommodate these appointments, we will be unable to work with you as a donor.***

The medications used to stimulate the ovaries are daily injections with a small, subcutaneous needle to produce a high number of eggs for the procedure month. Two days before your egg retrieval, you will inject an intramuscular medication to prepare your eggs for the egg retrieval procedure.

The Procedure

The egg retrieval is performed in our Grand Rapids office under intravenous (IV) conscious sedation. Even though the procedure only takes approximately 20 minutes, you will be at our office for 2-3 hours. You will need an escort to bring you to and from the egg retrieval. You will not be able to work or go to school this day due to the pain medications, but most people return to work or school the following day.

Two weeks after the egg retrieval procedure, you will have a post-operative appointment with one of our doctors to be sure you are healing properly. If you are interested in donating again, let us know at that time. Future cycles involve fewer appointments because much of the prescreening is already complete.

What happens to my eggs once they are donated?

The recipient couple provides a semen sample to fertilize the eggs to create embryos. The physician normally transfers two embryos to the recipient and remaining embryos may be frozen for future use.

It is also possible that your eggs will be frozen prior to being fertilized by a recipient. In this case, the eggs would be fertilized when thawed at a future date, for use by one or more couples.

What happens if I unexpectedly drop out of the program?

Before you begin, if you anticipate there may be scheduling issues, please do not proceed with egg donation. Cancelled cycles are very difficult for recipients, as many have been attempting pregnancy for years. However, we understand that emergencies arise. There is **no financial compensation** if you cancel your donor cycle; if you do not return medications which are provided to you, you are responsible for their cost. At any time if you feel that being an egg donor is not right for you, please let the donor coordinator know IMMEDIATELY.

Financial Compensation:

You will receive a check for \$4000.00 at the completion of an egg donation cycle. Donor reimbursement is paid once you have completed the egg retrieval procedure, assuming instructions were followed.

Referral Compensation:

Perhaps you aren't interested or able to donate your eggs but you know someone who is. If someone you know donates because they heard about our program through you, you'll receive a payment of \$500.00 at the completion of their first donation cycle as a token of our appreciation.

Other Considerations:

While there is no cost to you for your screening appointments, we do not reimburse you for missed work, transportation, or other related expenses. However, we do cover all fees generated by our office for your procedure.

All of your bills from our office will be paid anonymously by the recipient. We also require all recipients to pay a premium for a supplemental medical insurance policy for you, in case of any complication related to the egg donation process. If you have medical insurance, your insurance would be billed first, and then the supplemental insurance would cover whatever is not covered by your insurance. This is **ONLY** for complications with your visits here and cannot be used for personal doctor's appointments.