

Do you need donated eggs for your fertility treatment?

There are various reasons why women need donated eggs. It may be the result of age seriously affecting the egg quality, early menopause, chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy permanently damaging the ovaries, or because some women are born without ovaries.

Whatever the reason, it causes great despair, and donated eggs given either altruistically or as part of an Egg Share, can change the prospects of a woman desperate to have her own family.

Our Egg Sharing programme matches the donor with the recipient in terms of ethnicity and physical characteristics. This matching is done in complete confidence so that donor and recipient are not aware of each other's identity.

We can usually offer you treatment with donor eggs within two or three months of application for treatment. This will allow time for your health assessment and counselling. While we do not have a waiting list for Caucasian eggs, there is currently a short waiting list for Black or Asian eggs. We will do our best to match you to a suitable donor as soon as possible.

The majority of our egg donors are in our Egg Sharing programme, where you will receive half the eggs collected from a woman who is having treatment herself, and who has been assessed with the potential to produce a good number of healthy eggs to share.

We also treat women who bring their own donor to the clinic.

A specialist team

We have a dedicated team of Donation Nurses with experience to guide you through the process with all the care and support you need. If you are interested in donating your eggs, or in receiving donor eggs for your fertility treatment, please contact the centre for a confidential consultation.



Herts & Essex
Fertility Centre



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Egg donation

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Egg Donation at the Herts & Essex Fertility Centre

Egg donation is a life-changing gift for would-be parents facing a future without children. Some of our egg donors make the utterly selfless decision to help those less fortunate than themselves to become parents.

Other women may be in need of fertility treatment themselves and understand the heartbreak of failing to conceive. As part of their own treatment, they may choose to donate half of their eggs collected to another woman. This is known as Egg Sharing, and the Egg Share donor will benefit from free IVF treatment.

The success of our Egg Sharing programme means that we have donated eggs available for women who rely on donor eggs to have a chance of becoming a mother. We can offer you treatment with donor eggs within two to three months of application for treatment.

The Herts & Essex Fertility Centre is currently one of the top two leading centres in the UK for Egg Donation treatment in terms of the number of treatment cycles and success rates. While the national average is 32.4%, our current live birth rate is 44.8%.

Donating eggs

What happens when you donate eggs?

All egg donors must be under 36 years of age and produce good quality eggs. You will be asked initially to have a comprehensive fertility assessment to confirm your suitability to donate. Your screening will include tests for HIV, Hepatitis B (core antibody and surface antigen), Hepatitis C and Chlamydia. We will need the results of these tests before we can start the procedure. We need confirmation from your family doctor that you are fit and healthy, with no history of you or your immediate family having any inheritable illnesses.

At this stage you will be offered the services of a Fertility Counsellor, to give you the opportunity to discuss the full implications of your donation, and ensure that it is the right decision for you.

When it is confirmed that you are a suitable donor and you are happy to continue, you will start a series of hormone injections to help you produce eggs, culminating in a minor operation to collect your eggs. Your entire treatment is done on an outpatient basis at our clinic in Cheshunt, and the procedure takes place over the course of one month.

It is not always clear how egg donors will be reimbursed. Our clinic is regulated by the Human Fertilisation and Embryo Authority (HFEA) whose Code of Practice states that centres may compensate egg donors with a fixed sum of £750 per cycle of donation.

Who will have information about your donation?

You are ensured complete confidentiality, and only the HFEA and our clinic staff will have knowledge of your donation. You will be recorded on the HFEA register as an Egg Donor, and any patient using your eggs will have their treatment and any resulting outcome recorded as well. From 2005 it became law that children born from donated eggs, at the age of 18 can approach the HFEA to seek the identity of their biological parent(s), if they so wish. Your information will be given to the child/children only at their specific request.

Sharing eggs

Donating your eggs as an Egg Sharer gives you the opportunity to have a free IVF treatment while helping another woman who desperately needs donor eggs. It is worth considering being an Egg Sharer if the cost of IVF treatment is too expensive for you.

What is Egg Sharing?

Our Egg Sharing programme brings together women who need IVF treatment for different reasons. One woman makes plenty of eggs but struggles to afford her expensive fertility treatment, while the other woman cannot have treatment at all without the gift of donor eggs. Egg Sharing gives women the opportunity to help themselves, and help another in desperate need at the same time.

The Egg Share donor will receive free IVF treatment when she donates half of her collected eggs from her IVF cycle to an anonymous recipient.

Can anyone become an egg share donor?

There are very strict criteria you must meet in order to become an Egg Share donor. We need to assess your potential to produce enough eggs for two people to share, your health and genetic makeup. This is to prevent any inheritable illness being passed to any child born as a result of your donation.

The HFEA stipulates that an egg donor must be less than 36 years of age. You must complete questionnaires about your fertility and health before we can consider you to be a suitable Egg Share donor. It is important your family doctor signs your health questionnaire as verification. If you are suitable, we will arrange an appointment for you to meet a Fertility Consultant. Before you are finally accepted as an Egg Share donor, you will have screening tests to confirm your suitability.

