

Sperm sharing

You can become a registered sperm donor through our Sperm Sharing programme. We will offer you and your partner one free* IVF treatment cycle (*excluding drugs and HFEA fee) in exchange for your donated sperm. Our Sperm Sharing programme is very successful and can help to reduce the cost of your fertility treatment.

Sperm sharers can start their free treatment cycle after the donated sperm has been quarantined for 6 months (calculated from the date of last sperm donation) and satisfactorily rescreened. However, if you wish to start your treatment immediately, you have the option to pay for treatment and be reimbursed once satisfactory rescreening is confirmed.

Do you need donated sperm for your fertility treatment?

Many of our patients require the assistance of a sperm donor to fulfil their dream of becoming parents. Donor sperm is needed by heterosexual couples, single women and same sex couples.

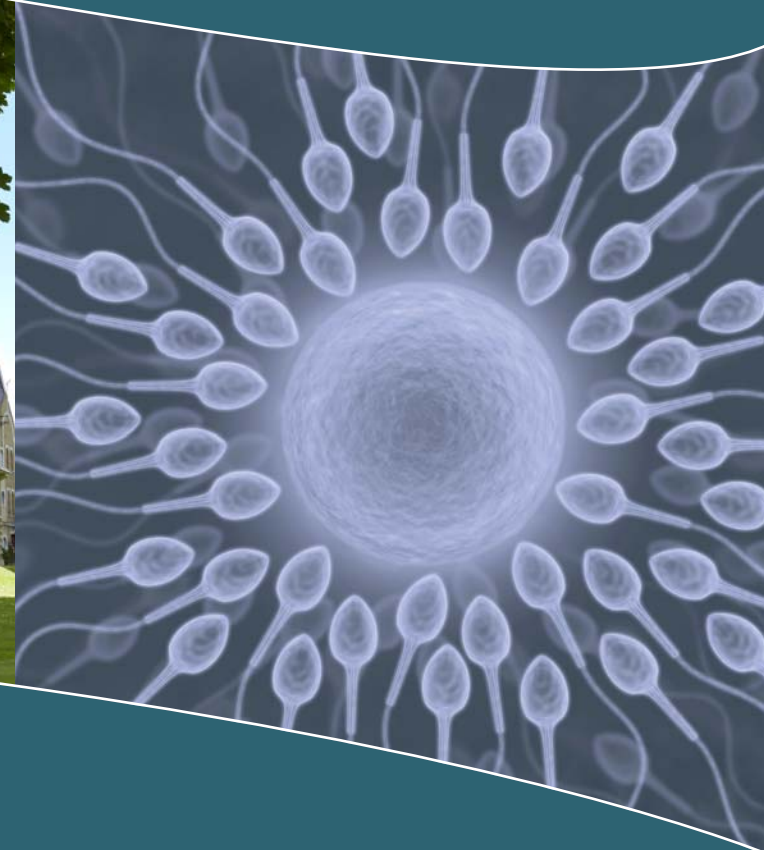
Our donors

Our sperm donors undergo comprehensive screening, and each donated sperm sample is frozen and quarantined for six months for HIV. It is only released for patient use following satisfactory rescreening after the quarantine period. The information available for patients who wish to match themselves to the donor will be: hair and eye colour, height and physique, skin tone, blood group, race, religion, as well as educational background, occupation and interests.

The process

Following your initial consultation, you will meet one of our Donor Sperm Coordinators. A characteristics form is completed to detail your own physical characteristics and that of your partner, along with your desired/ preferred characteristics of the sperm donor. You will then be offered a choice of available donors based on your selection criteria.

If you need ethnic minority sperm or have very specific requests that may not be met by our in-house sperm bank, we can offer you the option of purchasing sperm from other UK centres or even importing sperm from abroad.



Herts & Essex
Fertility Centre

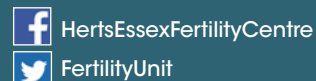


HERTS & ESSEX FERTILITY CENTRE

Bishops' College
Churchgate
Cheshunt
Hertfordshire EN8 9XP

T: 01992 78 50 60
E: enquiries@hertsandessexfertility.com

Follow us on



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Sperm Donation
Sperm Sharing

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Our sperm donors

Our sperm donors come from different backgrounds, professions and ethnicities. We welcome anyone who wishes to donate their sperm altruistically or who wish to be part of our Sperm Sharing programme. We have our own sperm bank, allowing us to offer donated sperm to couples or single women for fertility treatment. We pride ourselves on offering close cultural and physical matches for our patients.

If you are considering being a sperm donor, do check your suitability from our list of criteria below:

- Be between 18 and 46 years of age
- Be in good health
- Be prepared to undergo screening for specific conditions
- Be available for re-screening after the 6 months sperm quarantine period
- No family history of any hereditary illnesses
- Undergo counselling to make sure you understand the implications of becoming a sperm donor



Initial consultation

If you fulfil the requirements for a sperm donor then do book an initial consultation. You must bring a completed Sperm Donor Health Questionnaire which is available on our website. You will be given the privacy of a quiet room to provide a fresh semen sample. This is a routine procedure at a fertility clinic, and our experienced staff will soon put you at ease.

Screening

You must complete consent forms as part of the registration process with our regulatory body, the Human Fertilisation and Embryo Authority (HFEA). You will undergo a number of screening tests involving urine and blood samples. At registration, we will take note of your physical characteristics, ethnicity, religion, education, occupation and interests/skills. Patients choosing a sperm donor will be provided this limited information to help them select their sperm donor.

The donation process

Being a sperm donor requires dedication. Most of our donors make approximately ten visits to the clinic over a 10-20 week period to donate sperm. Each sample is frozen and stored in quarantine for a minimum period of six months, after which you need to return to the clinic for re-screening. This is to confirm that you are still infection free, and that your sperm is safe for use by our patients.

Counselling

It is important to fully understand the implications of donating your sperm. It is done in complete confidence and only the HFEA and the clinic staff will have knowledge of your donation. You will be recorded as a sperm donor in the HFEA register, and any patient using your sperm will have their treatment and any resulting baby recorded on the register as well. The HFEA require all sperm donors to be identifiable to any child born as a result of their donation. This means that the child at the age of 18 can by law contact the HFEA to seek the identity of the donor, if he or she wishes.



You will not be considered a legal parent or be financially responsible for any child born from your donation.

The HFEA have set a maximum limit of ten families that can be created by a single sperm donor, to prevent the risk of accidental consanguinity between donor conceived people. However, each of the ten families is allowed further treatment for siblings using the same donor.

An independent counsellor will discuss in detail all the implications you/and your partner will need to consider before donating your sperm for use by others.

Why donate?

There is a growing need for donor sperm in the UK, for heterosexual couples, single women and same-sex couples who require assistance to help turn their dreams of becoming parents into reality.

Will I be paid for my donation?

You may choose to donate your sperm altruistically, making your donations knowing that you are helping someone else achieve their dream of becoming a parent. You will not be paid for the donations, but you will receive expenses to cover travel and time off work. All altruistic sperm donors will be compensated £35 per donated sample, as in accordance with guidelines set by the HFEA. The maximum amount that any sperm donor can claim is a total of £750.