



Surrogacy

Herts & Essex
Fertility Centre

Think positive, we do

387
surrogacy
cycles

219 same sex
couples

166 heterosexual
couples

2 single people

Surrogacy is when a woman/person carries a baby for others who are unable to conceive or carry a pregnancy themselves.

The person carrying the baby is referred to as the Surrogate, and those who will become the parents are referred to as the Intended Parent/s.

Surrogacy is the only course of action available to people who are unable to carry babies to term themselves.

Surrogacy

Surrogacy is an increasingly popular fertility treatment in the UK and, at Herts & Essex Fertility Centre. We take great pleasure in supporting Intended Parents through their surrogacy journeys.

Surrogacy can be a complex and challenging process with many different options and elements to think about. It can be daunting to start the journey and to know where to begin.

We will provide you with the support and advice you need to assist you in working through the various processes and options. It is important to consider the length of time that this journey can take, the cost involved, and the fact that every scenario is different as it is not a one size fit all fertility treatment.

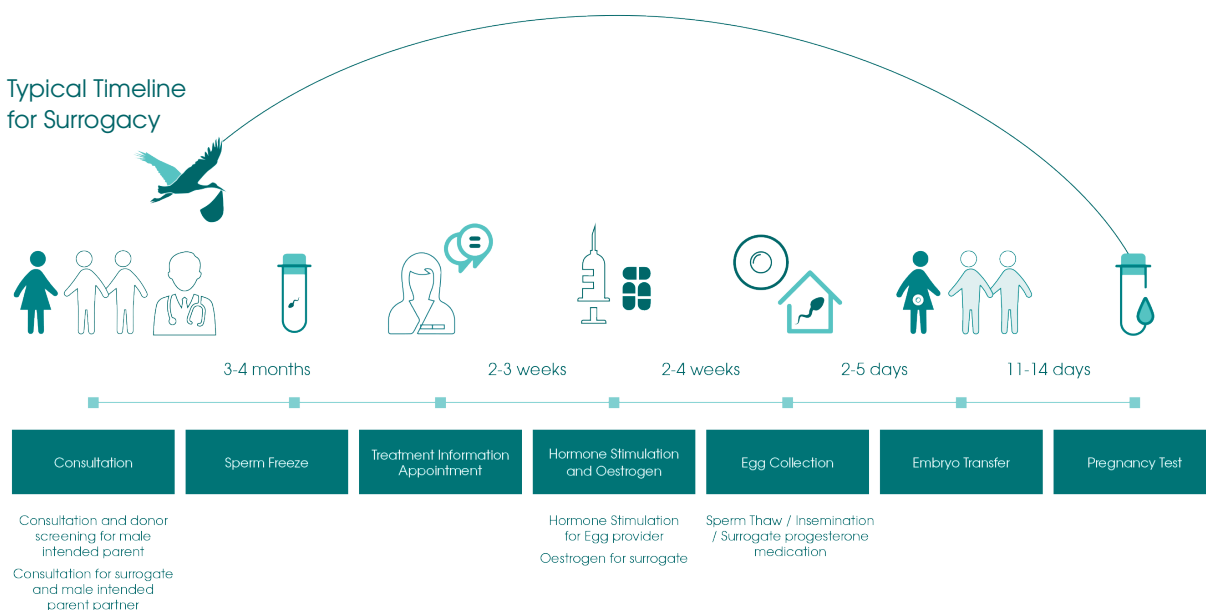
Finding a Surrogate

To find a Surrogate can be a difficult start to this challenging journey but there are fantastic surrogacy organisations available to help with this process. The responsibility for finding a Surrogate lies with the Intended Parents as fertility clinics are not allowed to find a Surrogate on behalf of a couple or individual.

These surrogacy organisations who specialise in helping Intended Parents find a Surrogate, also offer additional services to support them throughout the journey. The services vary greatly depending on the organisation so it is always best to check what professional support you will receive. It is also key to get legal advice, choose an experienced clinic, receive emotional and professional support, and consider how your journey will be managed to include support for your Surrogate. UK Surrogacy agencies:

- My Surrogacy Journey – www.mysurrogacyjourney.com
- Brilliant Beginnings – www.brilliantbeginnings.co.uk
- Surrogacy UK – www.surrogacyuk.org

Typical Timeline for Surrogacy



What is involved?

If you decide that surrogacy is the right fertility treatment for you and your partner (if applicable), we will carry out our usual fertility assessments on both of you to give you a clear idea of your chances to have a successful treatment cycle. As your gametes will be carried by a Surrogate we will need to screen both of you as if you are egg or sperm donors. This means that you will need to have blood tests for genetic screening as well as screening for various diseases.

It is important to note that surrogacy is regulated by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) and it is illegal to become a Surrogate for commercial reasons in the UK. The only payments that can be exchanged between the Intended Parents and their Surrogate, are those classed as reasonable expenses. This is usually between £12,000 and £30,000, but will be individual according to your own Surrogate's circumstances.

We charge our fees depending on the surrogacy treatment you require for any necessary IVF, donation and insemination procedures.

Two forms of surrogacy

Host surrogacy

In this scenario, the Intended Parents use IVF treatment to create embryos. These embryos are then transferred to the uterus of the Surrogate, meaning that she will carry a pregnancy that is not genetically related to her.

In this treatment, either the Intended Mother's eggs, or donor eggs can be used to create the embryo. The eggs must be fertilised with the sperm of the Intended Father, as legally there must be a genetic link to the baby in order to obtain a Parental Order.

Straight surrogacy

Straight surrogacy involves the Surrogate becoming pregnant either by artificial insemination or IVF, using the sperm from the Intended Father together with her own eggs. In this instance the child shares the Surrogate's genes.



Finding an egg donor

If you require donor eggs for your treatment, the length of time will vary depending on your individual requirements. Please speak to a member of the team to discuss current waiting times.

We can help you to find a suitable donor by matching your desired characteristics with that of one of our donors. We have both altruistic donors, and donors who are donating via our egg sharing programme.

If you use a donor, you may consider joining the Donor Conception Network, which is a parent-led and child-centred organisation offering mutual support with the emotional and social issues that arise when using donor conception - www.dcnetwork.org

Visit our page:

Surrogacy

<https://hertsandessexfertility.com/treatments/surrogacy/>

Legal implications of surrogacy

We strongly recommend that you take legal advice before embarking on a surrogacy journey, either as Intended Parents or as a Surrogate. The laws surrounding surrogacy and the rights of each party are complicated.

UK law states that: -

- The Surrogate will be the legal mother, at birth, of any child born from a surrogacy arrangement.
- If the Surrogate is married, her husband will be the second legal parent at birth.
- If the Surrogate is not married but living with a partner, her partner can complete HFEA consent forms to withdraw their consent. This means that the sperm provider will then automatically be the second legal parent at birth. However, the HFEA also provide further consent forms for either of the Intended Parents to be the second legal parent at birth if they wish.
- If the Surrogate is single and does not have a partner, then the sperm provider will automatically be the second legal parent at birth. As with the previous scenario, we can then complete further consent forms that will allow either of the Intended Parents to be registered as the second legal parent at birth if they wish.

Once the baby is six weeks old, the Intended Parents will be able to begin the Parental Order Process. This is a legal process that should be completed by the time the baby is six months old. At the end of this process, a judge in the family Court will legally transfer parenthood to the Intended Parents, and the baby will be issued with a new birth certificate recognising the Intended Parents as the parents of their baby.

For further Information, please visit the HFEA website:

<https://www.hfea.gov.uk/treatments/explore-all-treatments/surrogacy/>

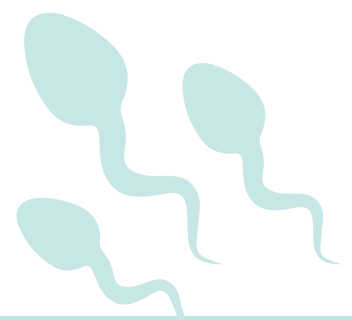
Maternity rights

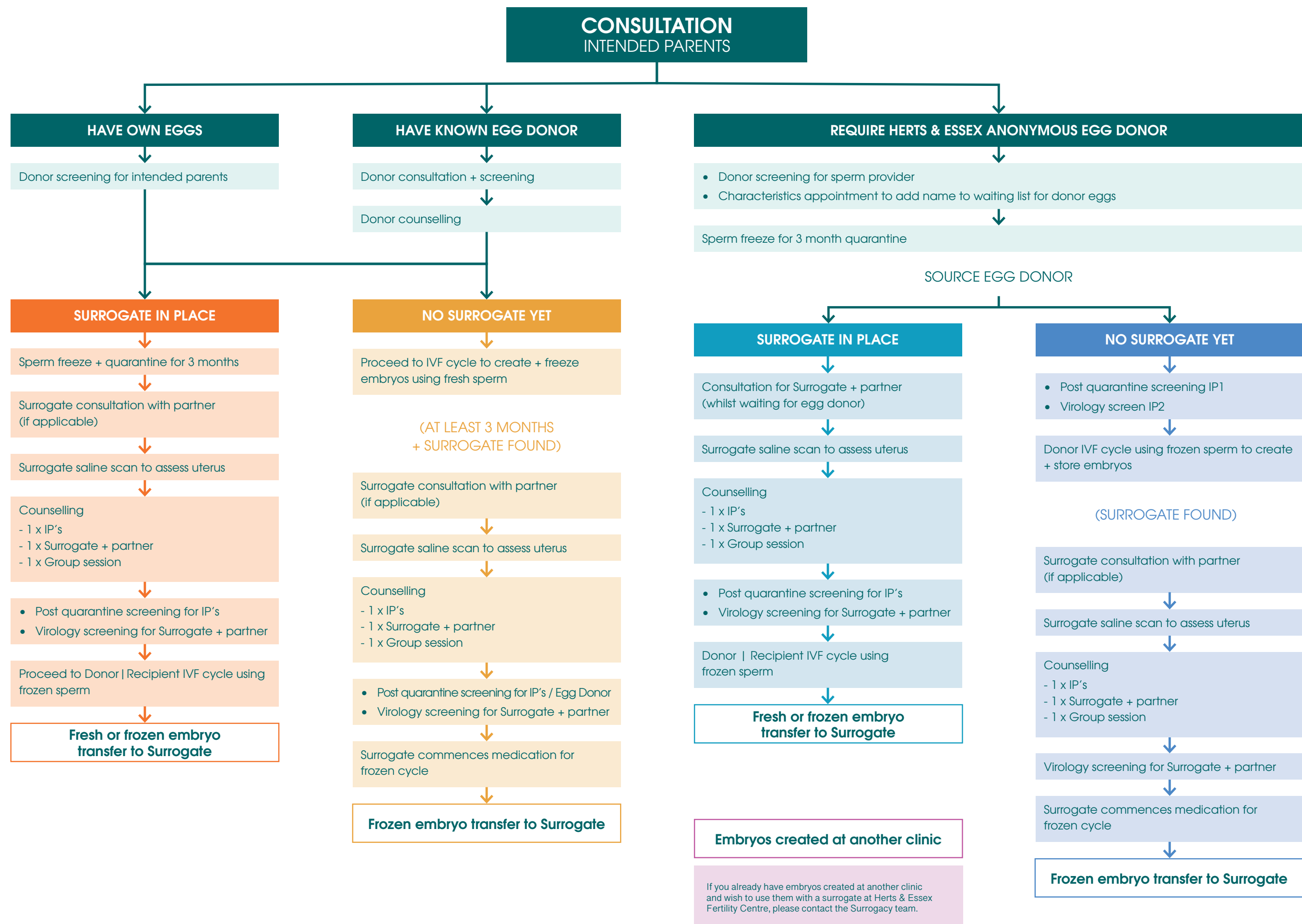
Currently Intended Parents are not entitled to maternity leave when their child is born, but may claim adoption leave and paternity leave. The Surrogate is entitled to take full maternity leave.



Counselling

Both Intended Parents and Surrogates (with their partner if they have one) will be required to attend implications counselling before signing consent forms for surrogacy. It is required that the Intended Parents have a session, the Surrogate (and her partner) have a separate session, and then there is a group session involving all of them. This ensures that all parties have full knowledge of the moral and emotional implications before making a decision to continue. You will be encouraged to take time to reflect on your decision before signing the consent forms for treatment.





Contact us

**Surrogacy and Egg Donation
Manager**

Caroline Cayley

01992 785065

caroline.cayley@hertsandessexfertility.com

www.hertsandessexfertility.com/surrogacy or

**Surrogacy and Egg Donation
Administrator**

Alyx Wilson

01992 785067

alyx.wilson@hertsandessexfertility.com

www.hertsandessexfertility.com/donation

**If you want to start a family through Surrogacy,
you will be supported by our highly experienced
Surrogacy team who was awarded the Best Surrogacy
Clinic of the Year Award in 2018 and 2022.**

Get in touch

Monday to Friday 8am-5pm

01992 78 50 60

enquiries@hertsandessexfertility.com

www.hertsandessexfertility.com



FertilityUnit



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Herts & Essex Fertility Centre
Bishops' College
Churchgate
Cheshunt
Hertfordshire
EN8 9XP