

DONOR UPDATE

Everything you wanted to know but didn't know who to ask*



On the 1st of January 2010 NSW government brought in new legislation to govern all donor issues and these are covered in the Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Act of 2007 and ART Regulations 2009.

All the details are published on the NSW government's web site:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/hospitals/phc/art.asp>

The website and especially the pdf documents it contains covers all aspects of donor and will provide most answers for your patients in easy to read pamphlet form.

Further information about the treatment that Fertility East provides is available on our website: <http://www.fertilityeast.com.au>

Donor FAQs

1. Is the use of donor gametes (sperm, eggs and or embryos) legal in NSW? *Answer: Yes*

Provided the new regulations mentioned above are adhered to by both the recipients and the accredited ART provider (Fertility East)



2. Is donor sperm available at Fertility East?

Answer: Yes

Fertility East, in addition to building its own bank of local Australian donors, has also been able to assist patients in obtaining NSW compliant donor sperm from overseas.

3. What is the process involved in patients requiring treatment with donor sperm at Fertility East?

Answer: See chart 'The Sperm Donation Process' overleaf.

4. Are there any groups of patients restricted from using donor sperm? *Answer: No*

The law allows for the treatment of all patients whether they are heterosexual couples, same sex couples or single women, and provided they fulfil the accreditation guidelines that Fertility East has which involves the Fertility Society of Australia guidelines and the NHMRC guidelines just to mention but two of them.

5. Are Known Donors allowed?

Answer: Yes

Current NSW law allows an accredited ART unit to undertake treatment with known donors, provided the ART unit fulfil the necessary legal and accreditation requirements

Brief outline of the NSW law

Disclaimer: Please note this information is INCOMPLETE and merely serves as a guide, however all the relevant information is available on the Government's website and as donor issues are complicated patients are requested to seek their own legal advice.

The New South Wales Central Donor Register

- All donors are identifiable.
- Once a child is born using donated semen, Fertility East will provide the information about the donor to a central donor register that is maintained by the NSW Department of Health. The information that is held on the register will be made available, on request, to children born from donated semen once they turn 18.

Donor Information

- If the donor has any other children by any other women, this will be provided to the donor register.
- Children born from the donated semen will be able to find out who their donor is.
- All children born in NSW from donated semen have the right to apply to the central donor register, once they turn 18, to obtain information about their biological parents.
- Donor's children will be able to obtain information about each other
- Children born from donated semen, once they turn 18, will also be able to obtain from the register information about the sex and year of birth of other children from the same donor.
- The donor's other children will also be able to apply to the register, once they turn 18, to obtain information about the sex and year of birth of children born from the same donated semen.
- Women who use your donated semen will be able to obtain information about you
- A woman who has given birth to a child using donated semen, and her husband or partner, will have the right to apply to the register to obtain the following information about the donor:
 - Donor's ethnicity;
 - Donor's physical characteristics;
 - Donor's medical history and any genetic test results, if the history or results are relevant to the future health of the woman or her offspring;
 - The sex and year of birth of each of the donor's other offspring

Continued overleaf 



Dr Joel Bernstein
Medical Director

* Health Professional's Help Desk

The laws relating to Donor Gametes and their use are complex and at times ambiguous. We have worked tirelessly to understand and interpret the recent changes in legislation to ensure that we, as health professionals, can inform and treat patients whilst adhering to the strict guidelines and laws we are governed by. If you have any questions relating to Donor Gametes and their use in NSW please call me:

02 9386 1315

Donor's right to obtain information from the register

If a child is born using donated semen the donor will have a legal right to obtain the following information from the central donor register:

- The sex and year of birth of each child born from his donated semen;
- If a child born from donated semen has turned 18 and consents, such other information about the child (including identifying information) as he or she agrees should be given to the donor;
- A copy of all the information about the donor that is held on the register.

Number of women who can use donated semen

Under NSW law, it is an offence for us to use one donor's semen to attempt to achieve a pregnancy in one of our patients if this is likely to result in children being born from that specific donor's semen to more than five women. The limit of five women includes his current spouse or partner, and any former spouse or partner with whom he has had children.



Donor Eggs

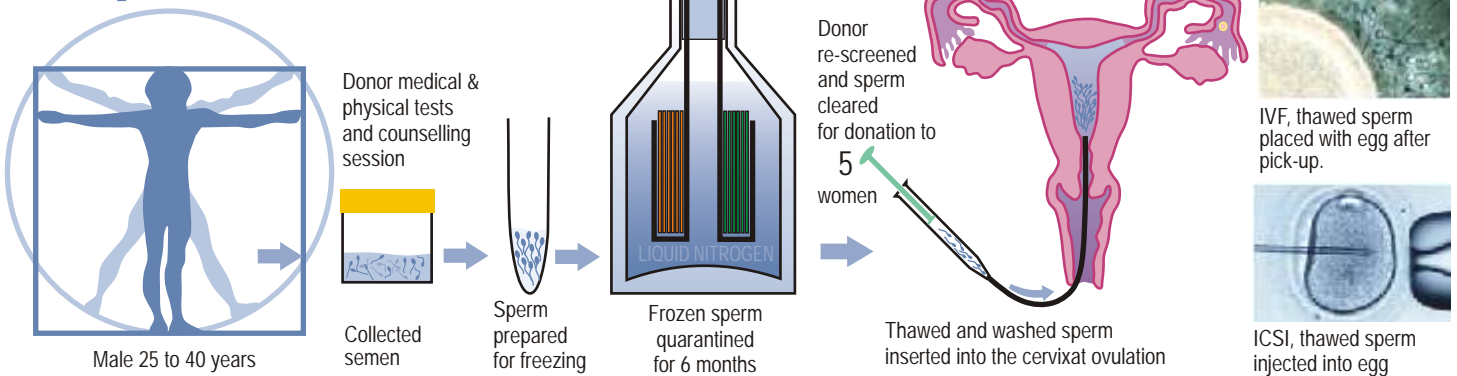
Unlike sperm banks, due to the technical limitations of egg freezing, Donor Egg Banks are not available. Most oocyte donation occurs with known donors, but anonymous identifiable donors are allowed. There is no difference in the law between donor sperm, eggs and embryos. Additional information about donor eggs is available at: <http://www.donoreggsaustralia.com.au/>



Donor Embryos

Legal but embryos are seldom offered and so are extremely rare.

The Sperm Donation Process



Sperm Donor Screening

STAGE 1 Assessment 1 week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone to arrange a time to donate initial sample (abstain 3 to 5 days before) • A Fertility East doctor will ring you with results of initial semen analysis.
<i>Provided semen analysis is normal</i>	
STAGE 2 Medical 2 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment with a Fertility East doctor. • Initial medical and physical check-up. • Blood & urine tests including STD screen. • Arrange an education session with a qualified donor counsellor.
<i>Provided medical check-up normal</i>	
STAGE 3 Education & Consent 4 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial education session with your partner (if applicable). • 2nd medical consultation. Review blood screens. • Sign consent forms and lifestyle declaration. • Tests for cystic fibrosis and a genetic screen.
<i>Depending on outcome of education session, tests and screens</i>	
STAGE 4 Quarantine 6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cryopreserve a between 3 to 6 semen samples (collected 3-5 days apart). • 6 months quarantine period of frozen semen samples. • Blood screens to clear frozen samples for donor use for 5 families.

News Flush! (Not a misprint)
 Following the last Induction of Ovulation Congress in Rome 2007 Fertility East altered our induction of ovulation policy to Mild Ovarian Stimulation (MOS) or "Light IVF". This subject was raised in the news recently as a new discovery, I will report back on the next congress (Oct 2010), which occurs every 3 years.

Fertility East Specialists



Dr Joel Bernstein
 Pathways-to-Parenthood
 Suite 502,
 Harley Place,
 251 Oxford Street,
 Bondi Junction 2022.
 Ph: 9386 1315



Dr Julie Lukic
 The Conception
 Zone
 Suite 901,
 3 Waverley Street,
 Bondi Junction 2022.
 Ph: 8362 2200



Dr Polly Peres
 Goals for Women
 16th Floor, Suite 1605,
 Westfield Tower 2,
 101 Grafton Street,
 Bondi Junction 2022
 Ph: 1300 88 6009



Dr Jenny Cook
 Goals for Women
 16th Floor, Suite 1605,
 Westfield Tower 2,
 101 Grafton Street,
 Bondi Junction 2022
 Ph: 1300 88 6009