



CANBERRA FERTILITY CENTRE

INFORMATION BOOKLET SEMEN DONOR RECIPIENT



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Introduction

This brochure is designed to provide recipients of donor sperm with information regarding the process required in the selection of, and treatment with donor sperm. The following sections summarize the relevant information.

1.0 Legislation

In the ACT, the relevant legislation is the ACT Parentage Act (2004). Different states have different legislation, but it is the ACT legislation that applies if you are treated by *Canberra Fertility Centre*. In this Act the donor is not considered to be the father of any children born and does not have any parenting rights. If the recipient has a male partner, he is deemed to be the father and the recipient cannot make any claim on the donor.

2.0 Counselling

Counselling for recipients of donor sperm is mandatory. *Canberra Fertility Centre* has its own counsellor but you can be seen by an external counsellor that is attached to a fertility clinic and who is a member of ANZICA. This is especially useful for patients living outside the ACT. Relevant legislation must be attended to by the counsellor you see. If you see an external counsellor, a written report is required to be sent to *Canberra Fertility Centre*. This report is confidential.

3.0 Cooling-off Period

A three (3) month cooling-off period exists prior to treatment commencing. This cooling-off period begins from when you see your treating doctor or the counsellor. The cooling-off period cannot be waived as it is in the best interests of all parties.

4.0 Anonymous Donation

This is the most common form of sperm donation. The donor is anonymous to the recipient. This anonymity is preserved at all times. However, all donors must consent to the release of identifying information to any child born as a consequence of their donation once that child reaches 18 years of age. It is important that you understand the ramifications of this and it will be discussed at your counselling session. You cannot request this information on behalf of your child and if your adult child should request the information, you cannot prevent the child from receiving it.

5.0 Known Donors

You can source your own donor if you know someone who has agreed to donate sperm for you. Counselling is mandatory for this donor, and any partner he may have. He will also be required to have mandatory health checks and screens. A cooling-off period is also required and a quarantine period of six (6) months prior to the sperm being released for use.

6.0 Rights of Donors

The donor has the right to maintain his anonymity to any potential recipient. The donor also has the right to withdraw consent up until the point of the use of his gametes. Once an insemination or fertilization procedure has occurred, he has no further rights to those gametes, including any embryos that may have been created.

7.0 Limits to Recipient Families

Donors offered from *Canberra Fertility Centre* can be allocated to a maximum of five (5) recipient families, including families residing outside the ACT. Once the limit has been reached, that donor can only be made available for subsequent further treatment of these recipients. Material can sometimes be reserved by recipients for this purpose. However, if all the donated material has been used and the donor is unwilling to make further donations, then the donor **cannot** be forced to make further donations and another donor would need to be selected. Limits apply to donor material sourced outside the ACT but the limit may vary, for example for some international donors, the limit is often ten (10) families.

8.0 Source of Donors

Availability of local donors is restricted and this is a common problem faced by all Australian fertility clinics, but we have been able to source donor sperm from overseas to help fill this gap.

- 8.1 If you select a donor from outside the ACT, you must pay for the sperm before it is shipped to *Canberra Fertility Centre*.
- 8.2 If you select a donor from a website or other source, *Canberra Fertility Centre* must satisfy itself that the donor meets all the criteria as outlined in its donor program policy. The donor must have been adequately screened as per the minimum screening tests. You are responsible for all the shipping costs and any fees charged by the organizing clinic, but *Canberra Fertility Centre* will organize the shipment.
- 8.3 If you source donor sperm from outside *Canberra Fertility Centre*, then it is important to source enough material for your treatment requirements as it is not uncommon for a donor who is currently available, to be unavailable in 3 or 4 months time. Please discuss your requirements with the Donor Program Coordinator.

9.0 Donor Selection

Canberra Fertility Centre provides non-identifying information on all donors. This information typically includes height, build, eye colour, complexion, hair colour, blood group etc. The amount of information available varies from donor to donor and sourced donor material. Some of the overseas clinics provide photographs and more detailed information on education and family life. When this information has been made available it is up to you to make a selection. It is important to make sure you are happy with the selection. You do have the right to withdraw from this selection prior to treatment, but you are still responsible for any costs incurred.

Payment for the donor straw is required at the time of selection.

10.0 Getting Started: Consultation with a Specialist Fertility Doctor

You can only receive treatment at *Canberra Fertility Centre* if you are under the care of a specialist doctor accredited with this clinic. This doctor will be responsible for all aspects of your treatment and will oversee the treatment. Before any treatment can begin you must have a consultation with your specialist doctor who will discuss your suitability for treatment (medical grounds only) and in consultation with you, decide the best treatment option for you. You will require a referral from a GP to see the specialist and you should ask for an indefinite referral as the treatment can extend over a long period of time. It is necessary to organize this appointment before proceeding to the stage of counselling and donor sperm selection. If you have any questions please consult with the donor program coordinator.

11.0 Treatment

There are two types of treatment. For more information please consult the patient hand book. The two types of treatment are:

11.1 Insemination

The sperm is placed in the uterus at around the time of ovulation. The procedure is similar to having a PAP smear. Please consult clinic staff and the patient hand book for details of the procedure and costs. Some follicle stimulating hormones (fertility drugs) may be used with such a treatment plan. Importantly, the success rate of insemination is only about 10% per insemination in the 35–38 year old age bracket. It is higher if you are younger and lower if you are older. A minimum of 1 straw is required per insemination. If you are sourcing donor sperm from outside *Canberra Fertility Centre*, you must make sure there is sufficient sperm available for the treatments you are to undergo.

Important Note: Due to supply and availability, sperm from *Canberra Fertility Centre's* local donors can only be used in an IVF procedure.

11.2 IVF

IVF is a more complicated procedure than insemination and will place more demands on your time. However, the success rate is much better, with 30% per cycle being the norm in the 35–38 year old bracket. Please consult the patient hand book for the details of this procedure. You will also have to attend an orientation session prior to commencement. In some cases, clinics provide sperm specifically designed to be used in an IVF procedure, and because there are less sperm in the sample, they may be less expensive.

11.3 Comparison of IVF and Insemination

IVF is a more complicated and demanding procedure but surprisingly, when the effect of the Medicare safety net is taken into account, it is not that much more expensive. The main advantage is the success per straw of sperm used. For IVF this is 5 or 6 times that of insemination. **Canberra Fertility Centre recommends that all potential donor sperm recipients consider IVF as the treatment of choice for this reason.** For example, if you are 35–38 years old, your chance of pregnancy from insemination using 2 straws of sperm is about 17%, whilst with IVF, it is 73%!

12.0 Fees

The fees are detailed in the current fee brochure. Please consult with a staff member if you are unsure of the fees applicable to you.

13.0 Treatment of Single Women and Same Sex Couples

Canberra Fertility Centre does not discriminate in this respect. You will be assessed for suitability on medical grounds alone.

14.0 Contact Details

For further information please contact the Donor Sperm Coordinator on telephone 02 6282 5458 between 10.00am and 3.00pm, email to admin@cfc.net.au or fax 02 6281 2087. Web: www.canberrafertilitycentre.com.au

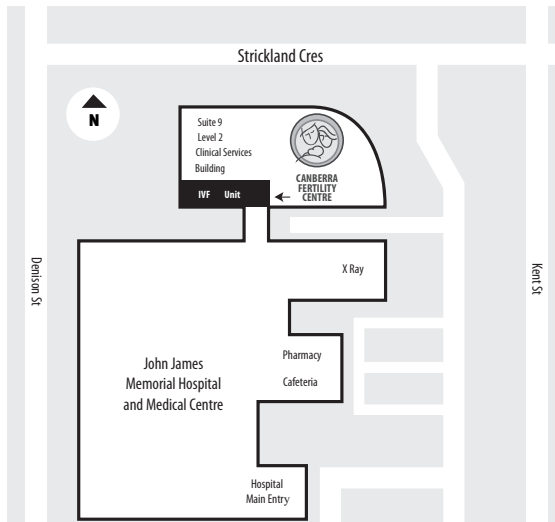
15.0 Location

Canberra Fertility Centre

Suite 9, Level 2 Clinical Services Building,
John James Healthcare Campus
173 Strickland Crescent Deakin ACT.

Mailing address:

Canberra Fertility Centre
PO Box 228 CURTIN ACT 2605



CANBERRA FERTILITY CENTRE

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