



Embryo Donation

What is Embryo Donation?

Embryo donation is the gifting of donor couple embryo(s) for use in the fertility treatment of another couple who is unable to conceive.

The embryo(s) will be thawed when the recipient couple is ready to use them for their assisted reproduction procedures. The aim is to allow the embryo(s) to be transferred to the recipient's uterus and give her a chance at pregnancy.

Why should we choose to donate embryo(s)?

- Embryo donation will enable donor couple to help an infertile married couple to have a child of their own.
- Donor couple may choose to donate to a particular couple (known donation) or to an anonymous couple (anonymous donation).
- Embryo donation is entirely voluntary.

Eligibility to become an Embryo Donor

- Embryos created from oocytes removed from women between the ages of 21 and below 38 at the point of oocyte retrieval to be a donor.
- Nurse coordinator will assess the donor couple's intend and ensure the woman meet the age criteria
- Doctor/ Nurse coordinator will explain the process of the embryo donor and to complete a lifestyle questionnaire with both of you (Live Donor Assessment Questionnaire).
- If the donor couple or any of their relatives have any physical, mental or psychological impediment, disability or abnormality - whether inherited or as a result of any disease, ailment, or accident – they may not be eligible to be a donor.
- Some birth defects (e.g., cleft palate) and serious diseases may be genetically linked. Thus, if the donor couple have a family history of these conditions, they may not be eligible.

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What does it involve?

- Donor couple shall be assessed by the psychosocial assessment.
- The Psychiatrist/Psychologist shall assess the donor couple on suitability to donate.
- Psychological report is endorsed by **The Clinical Governance Officer**.
- You and your spouse have to consent to a general physical examination and be agreeable for donor consent taking. Both of you will be tested for full blood count; blood grouping; and infectious diseases including HIV, Hepatitis B and C, Syphilis, Cytomegalovirus (CMV IgG and CMV IgM), **HTLV Type I and II, urine Gonorrhoea, Chlamydia** and urine CMV.
- Both of you will be required to repeat infectious screening blood test not earlier than **3** months from the time of oocyte retrieval, before the donated embryo(s) can be used.

What happens if we are not well while we are a donor?

While both of you are a donor, if any of you suffer from a sexually-transmitted disease, have any urethral discharge, or if any of you have previously experienced any of the above symptoms, please notify CARE staff.

Use in Recipient's Fertility Treatment

- In the case of anonymous/ unknown donation, if there are couples who require embryo donation, matching will be performed usually in terms of race and/or blood group. If they match your profile, the stored embryo(s) will be thawed and used in their fertility treatment.
- In the case of known donation, your embryo(s) will be thawed and used in the intended recipient's fertility treatment. The recipient wife cannot be biologically related to the donor husband as prohibited by law.
- If any of the donated embryo(s) cannot be transferred to the recipient couple for any reason, the donated embryo(s) will be disposed.

Legal Considerations

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- Donors must be altruistic (i.e. must not receive monetary compensation in exchange for their egg(s)).
- Once there are 5 live-birth events (could be in the same but not more than 5 different families), the remaining embryo(s) if any, cannot be used and will be disposed. Occasionally, even if there are already 5 live-birth events, a family with a child may appeal to Ministry of Health (MOH) to use the same donor so that their child can have a related sibling.

What can I expect after donating embryo(s)?

- If you and your spouse are making an anonymous / unknown donation, the identity of any recipient of your embryo(s) will not be disclosed to you, and you shall not attempt to find out the identity of any recipient. You are not allowed to seek the identity of any child (or children) born as a result of your embryo donation nor seek to make any claim in respect of such child or children in any circumstances whatsoever.
- The recipient couple shall be the lawful parents of any child or children born as a result of the donation.
- If you are making a known donation, you will know who the recipient is.

What are my options?

- Donor couple may choose not to donate the embryo(s).
- Donor couple may change their mind about donating embryo(s) up to the point before the start of the recipient couple's treatment cycle.
- If you change your mind about donating your embryo(s), please inform the CARE Clinic, SGH



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