
Information egg cell donation for known donor

Donating to someone you know

Medisch Centrum Kinderwens

Introduction

You are considering donating your egg cells for the benefit of another person's desire to have children. We appreciate your consideration because it can make a significant change in the life of the person who cannot conceive without your contribution.

You will receive this information prior to the intake consultation. In this information leaflet you can read more about the selection criteria and the procedure prior to a donation. If you have any questions after reading this information, please discuss them with the doctor who conducts the intake consultation.

What is egg donation?

Egg donation is donating unfertilized egg cells by a donor woman. These unfertilized egg cells are donated to a woman who cannot produce egg cells herself (anymore) or whose egg cells are no longer suitable. However, this woman does have a functioning uterus and can therefore become pregnant with an embryo created from the donated egg cell and a sperm cell from her partner (or a sperm donor).

A donor undergoes almost a complete IVF treatment, with the associated hormone injections and egg retrieval. This treatment can cause side effects such as abdominal pain, headaches, exhaustion and mood swings. Also, donating egg cells is also an emotional experience for some women. It is also important that the partner is supportive of the choice to donate. Treatment takes between two and three weeks. More information can be found in the leaflet IVF/ICSI treatment.

Are you qualified to be an egg donor?

You are mentally and physically healthy. You are at least 18 and no more than 40 years old. In addition, there must be no hereditary disorders in the family and the supply of eggs must be sufficient for donation.

How do you apply and what is the procedure?

First, the intended parent(s) will have appointments and possible examinations to determine that there are no contra-indications for a treatment with egg cell donation.

If you decide to donate after reading all the information, you can schedule an appointment with our administrative office. On the day of the appointment, you'll have meetings with both a physician and a social worker. Both of these meetings will take one hour. There will also be an internal ultrasound and a blood test scheduled for you on that day.

Intake consultation with physician and internal ultrasound

During the intake consultation with the physician, your medical history will be thoroughly examined. The goals of this are to estimate the risks to your own health involved with undergoing an IVF treatment and oocyte retrieval, as well as the likelihood of hereditary issues in a possible child resulting from your oocytes. The physician will take some time to discuss with you your own current or future desire to have children and the effect donating might have on that. They will also talk you through an IVF treatment and the risks associated with it. Finally, an internal ultrasound will be performed.

Intake social work

One of our medical social workers will discuss with you the emotional and judicial aspects of donating egg cells. They will also check that you and the intended parent(s) have discussed the most important issues regarding egg cell donation and its impact in the future. They will also inform you of the current legislation regarding egg cell donation in the Netherlands

Blood test

We will draw some of your blood for blood testing purposes, for two reasons. First, you'll be screened for the presence of antibodies against Hepatitis B and C, HIV, and syphilis. If any of these are detected (except if you've been vaccinated for Hepatitis B), you unfortunately will not be able to donate. Secondly, the AMH hormone level in your blood will be determined. This value, combined with the results of the ultrasound, will help us estimate your ovarian reserve. If your ovarian reserve is normal for your age, you're a suitable donor.

After the intake

Depending on the results of the abovementioned appointments and the blood results, we'll be able to decide whether you are a suitable as an egg cell donor or not. It's entirely possible that you'll need some time to consider all the information you received during your intake appointments, so we'll schedule a consult over the phone with you for three weeks after the intake. Your treating physician will discuss the results with you and ask if you wish to proceed with the donation process. When the intended parent(s) have also had all the examinations, we will invite you together for a consultation.

Donor agreement

If you're able and willing to donate and an appointment to start the treatment has been scheduled, you'll receive a donor agreement. The mutual responsibilities are outlined in this, and you'll be given ample opportunity to read this through carefully before signing.

Voluntary donation

For the sake of clarity, we would like to reinforce the voluntary nature of being a donor. According to legislation, the donor is not the mother of the child, despite the genetic relationship. The donor has no rights or duties towards the child. Nor can the child or the child's mother assert any rights against the donor. This has all been regulated by law.

“Wet Donorgegevens Kunstmatige Bevruchting”

Since 2004, the only type of donation allowed in the Netherlands is non-anonymous. This has been recording in a law known as the “Wet Donorgegevens Kunstmatige Bevruchting”. It details that a child, after their 16th birthday, has the right to find out their donor’s identity. If a donor is involved in a pregnancy in any way, they must register that pregnancy and subsequent birth with the Stichting Donorgegevens (“donors’ personal details association”). They will keep this data for a duration of 80 years. The Stichting Donorgegevens also facilitates communication between the child and their donor, if so desired. More information regarding this association can be found on their website: www.donorgegevens.nl.

The costs

A donor is not allowed to donate for the purpose of gaining money. In the Netherlands, trade in organs/oocytes is forbidden. Reimbursement of expenses (for travel, inability to attend work, risks et cetera), however, is allowed.

Basic insurance provides that the care is reimbursed if a person needs it. However the donor does need this care and therefore it cannot be claimed from her insurance. The donor is undergoing an examination and treatment on behalf of another person (the recipient).

The fertility examination (OFO) on behalf of the recipient (and the male partner) can be claimed by the insurance company (if <43 years). This claim includes the intake consultation, the examinations and the follow-up consultations. The OFO on behalf of the donor is uninsured.

The donor undergoes:

1. Preliminary examination, blood tests and consultations (= infertility work-up ‘OFO woman’)
2. Stimulation for ICSI treatment (phase 1)
3. Egg retrieval (phase 2)

These costs will be charged to the recipient, this is uninsured care.

Contact information

You can reach us by phone from Monday till Friday from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM and from 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM and on Saturdays from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM on 071-5812300.

On Sundays and holidays we are only available by phone for medical emergency between 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM.