
Information oocyte bank for donors

Medisch Centrum Kinderwens

Introduction

You are considering donating oocytes (egg cells) to the MCK Fertility Center's oocyte bank. We appreciate your interest, since donated oocytes may change the lives of women who are unable to conceive without your help.

You've received this information brochure before your intake. It contains information regarding our selection criteria as well as the period leading up to the donation itself. If you have any questions after reading, you'll be given the opportunity to ask them during your intake consultation.

Our oocyte bank was first established in 2011. Until then, the only option for women who could not conceive using their own oocytes was to use those of family or friends (known donors) or foreign oocyte banks (unknown donors). Thanks to the women who donate their oocytes to the MCK Fertility Center's oocyte bank, it's now possible to do a treatment using an unknown donor in the Netherlands, too.

What is oocyte donation?

Oocyte donation is the relinquishing of unfertilized egg cells by a donor. They will be donated to women who do not produce any oocytes themselves, or whose oocytes are not viable for reproduction. These women do need to have a functioning uterus, so that they can sustain a pregnancy with an embryo originating from a donated oocyte and sperm provided by their partner (or a sperm donor).

Each donor will undergo nearly an entire IVF treatment, with all the hormone injections and the ova retrieval that come with that. This treatment may cause side effects such as abdominal pain, headaches, tiredness and mood changes. In addition to this, oocyte donation may also be an emotionally taxing process for some. It's also important that the donor's partner, if there is one, agrees with the choice to donate. An IVF treatment takes two to three weeks. More information on this can be found in the information brochure on IVF/ICSI-treatments.

Who can donate?

Women who are mentally and physically healthy can donate. They need to be at least 23 years of age, with a maximum of 35. There can't be a family history of genetic issues such as birth defects or hereditary diseases.

How do you apply and what is the process for this?

If you decide to donate after reading the information we have available, 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 fertility counselor. Each of these meetings will take one hour. We'll also take some blood for testing.

Intake with a physician and vaginal ultrasound

During the intake appointment with a 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, you'll undergo a vaginal ultrasound.

Intake with a fertility counselor

One of our fertility counselors will talk you through the emotional and judicial aspects of donating oocytes. They will also inform you of the current legislation regarding oocyte donation in the Netherlands.

Blood testing

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. Then, the AMH hormone level in your blood will be determined. This, when combined with the results of the vaginal ultrasound, will help us estimate your ovarian reserve. If your ovarian reserve is normal for your age, you're a viable donor.

After the intake

Depending on the results of the abovementioned appointments and blood testing, we'll be able to decide whether you are a viable 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 you whether you can continue the donation process. If you do, an in-person starting appointment will be scheduled.

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.

Restitution

It is forbidden by law to sell oocytes. The MCK Fertility Center will, however, reimburse you for the effort and time you're putting into this, as well as risks associated with the procedure. The total amount is € 680, = (plus other costs for traveling, parking, childcare etc. -you have to submit receipts-) for one completed treatment, and you'll be receiving € 0,19/km travel expenses.

Voluntary donation

Just for the sake of clarity, we would like to reinforce the voluntary nature of oocyte donation. According to legislation, the donor is not the mother of a child resulting from a donated oocyte, despite a genetic relationship. The donor has no rights or duties regarding the child, and the child's mother can't enforce any rights regarding 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.

Contact information

Telephone: 071 5812300 (MO-FRI 08:00 a.m.- 12:00 a.m. and 01:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. SA: 10:00 a.m.- 01:00 p.m.)

E-mail: info@mckinderwens.nl

Website: www.mckinderwens.nl

This information is meant for women who are considering donating their oocytes to the oocyte bank at MCK Fertility Center. This information, together with any other information provided to you by a physician or fertility counselor, is meant to help you make an educated choice on whether you want to go through with this. This information brochure has been compiled with the utmost care, although the information is subject to change.

For any feedback regarding this information brochure, please let us know at info@mckinderwens.nl.