

One of the ways of helping to reduce the cost of your treatment cycle is through our Sperm Sharing Programme. In this programme you get your treatment cycle at a reduction of the standard costs and in return you agree to share your sperm with another couple or couples who require donated sperm.

This reduction of £2,000 applies only to the standard treatment cycle costs and does not apply to drugs, or additional treatments such as embryo freezing. All drugs will also need to be paid for (Approximately £800.00 - £1,000).

The reduction is authorized after the sample has been released from quarantine. (6 months after the last sample has been donated). Sperm sharers can either wait until this time to start a treatment cycle or pay the full cost of a treatments cycle and start straight away and then be reimbursed as soon as the sperm has been released from quarantine – 6 months after the last sample has been given.

Up to 10 families can be created using sperm from each sperm sharer.

Suitability

For a man to be considered for the Sperm Sharing Programme he has to be under 46 years of age, with no family history of inherited illness or abnormalities. He will then be seen by a Unit senior clinician for assessment, and he will also have independent counselling. His General Practitioner will be contacted, with his consent, for details on his medical and family history.

Prior to donation he will undergo thorough sperm tests and be screened for sexually transmitted diseases (syphilis, chlamydia, and gonorrhoea), hepatitis, HIV (the AIDS virus), cystic fibrosis and karyotyping. After sufficient sperm has been stored the screening tests are repeated not less than 180 days following the sperm storage. This eliminated the risk of viral transmission to recipients. The sperm must also survive the freezing procedure to match the donor sperm survival criteria.

Sperm Sharing Arrangements

The sperm sharing works as follows:

- You will receive your own treatment at a reduction of the standard cost. You can either wait the 6 months or so for the final screening tests to be performed to receive your treatment at this reduced charge or else you can receive your treatment immediately at the full standard charge and subsequently receive the appropriate refund after the final screening tests have been performed.
- The patients sharing your sperm will remain anonymous and you will not be given any details about them or their treatment. However, you can request details of whether any children have been born as a result from your donation; a year after the final screening tests and thereafter. You will also be anonymous to them.
- According to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, you will not be the legal parent of any child resulting from the sperm you have donated.
- You will be required to meet with the independent counsellor to discuss the implications of the proposed sperm sharing treatment.
- You can vary or withdraw consent up until either the sperm has been used for insemination or embryos created using the sperm have been transferred. **However, if you do so, you will have to pay all your own treatment costs in full.**

Alternative Options

Another way of obtaining your treatment is to pay in full. In such a case you do not donate your sperm to other patients.