



European Sperm Bank (ESB)
Recipient Program

Information Booklet
for
ESB Recipients



EUROPEAN
SPERM·BANK

 **Genea**
NEWCASTLE FERTILITY

Introduction to European Sperm Bank Donors at Genea Newcastle

The information in this booklet gives an outline of what is involved for patients (and their partners) who wish to use ESB Donor Sperm in an attempt to achieve a pregnancy. It answers the most commonly raised questions.

ESB Donor/Recipient relationships

ESB Donors are Identifiable Donors. The child(ren) born from the donation will be able to contact the NSW ART registry to access the donor's name and date of birth when the child reaches 18 years of age. An ESB donor has potentially donated to other recipients and/or is likely to donate to others in the future. The ESB donor, specifically allocated to Genea only, can only donate to a maximum of five families worldwide. At the time of selection only non-identifying information is available to the recipient ie: medical history, family history, height, weight, hair colour, eye colour, ethnic background, religion, occupation, interests etc. ESB gather and supply extensive information about the donor, often including childhood photos and extended medical information about the donor's family.

Supply and Demand

Currently in NSW there is a greater demand for donor gametes (sperm and eggs) than there is availability and there is usually a waiting list of potential recipients.

The reason Genea has formed a connection with European Sperm Bank is that they have available donors, with virtually no waiting times. All screening, information and selection of the donor is arranged directly between ESB and recipients via the ESB website. Genea Newcastle involvement is with treatment of the recipient and receiving the sperm samples being supplied by international courier from ESB.

Requirements for Recipients

Age

Recipients of donated sperm from a European Sperm Donors must under 43 years old to receive treatment using their own eggs; however, a woman using donor eggs may be older.

Health

Recipient(s) should be in good physical and psychological health but specifically:

- Must be non-smokers
- BMI <35

Partner Involvement

If you are in a relationship, both partners are required to attend the counselling, medical and nursing consultations. Receiving donated gametes affects both partners and your family, and it is essential that both partner(s) are involved in the process.

Openness

The Recipient(s) must be agreeable for their details and child(rens) details to be included on the NSW Donor Register.

Donor/Recipient Selection

Recipients of ESB donor gametes will be sent a link from ESB to the available Profiles of donors to choose from. The list contains non-identifying information about the Donor(s) including:

- Personal information – year of birth, occupation, marital status, number of children etc.
- Physical characteristics – height, weight, eye/hair colour, blood group etc.
- Family medical history – of the donor, his parents, siblings, grandparents.
- Physical characteristics of the donor's parents
- Interests/personality/philosophy of life/ambition
- Usually a childhood photo, a sample of his handwriting and a recording of his voice.

Profiles are delivered via email and may be viewed by other patients concurrently therefore selection is based on a 'first in first served' basis.

ESB Minimum Samples

ESB require a minimum purchase of 6 samples when selecting a donor. Although the upfront cost is expensive, there are some advantages in this approach. Firstly, it gives confidence to use donor insemination as a first line of treatment, if the recipient is eligible. Secondly, there is usually enough samples available to use for subsequent cycles if required, or subsequent pregnancies. You can also be confident of how many samples you have left, and you can plan your treatment.

How to Find, Select and Order ESB sperm samples, eligible for use in NSW:

- Patient creates a (free) account on europeanspermbank.com – ensure you nominate Australia as treatment country and Genea Newcastle Pty Ltd as clinic.
- ESB provides a select number of exclusive sperm donors that are reserved for Genea. The donors are only visible to Genea recipients. The donors agree to the terms and conditions of the NSW ART Act, including worldwide exclusivity to limit the number of recipients to 5 families, agree to have additional counselling with an accredited Australian ANZICA counsellor in NSW to discuss the implications of their donation; agree to being identifiable to the offspring at aged 18, and are selected for high sperm parameters. These are the conditions that make these exclusive donors more valuable, which is reflected in the pricing from ESB.
- Patient requests to view exclusive donor profiles, by emailing: info@europeanspermbank.com (please add Genea Newcastle in the Subject line) – ESB uploads all current donor profiles to the website
- You should complete your required counselling appointment/s before paying for your chosen donor in case new information received from the counsellor changes your plans. ESB allow you to place a donor selection “on hold” for a couple of weeks before payment once you have looked through the donors available.
- Patient follows up with their chosen donor and makes an order via email to: info@europeanspermbank.com
- ESB sets up order and sends confirmation, invoice and payment link to the patient
- Patient must be registered with Genea Newcastle and pay admin and shipment fee to Genea Newcastle before samples are shipped.
- Once payment has been received to both ESB and Genea Newcastle, ESB arranges transport of samples to Genea Newcastle.

Information for ESB Recipients

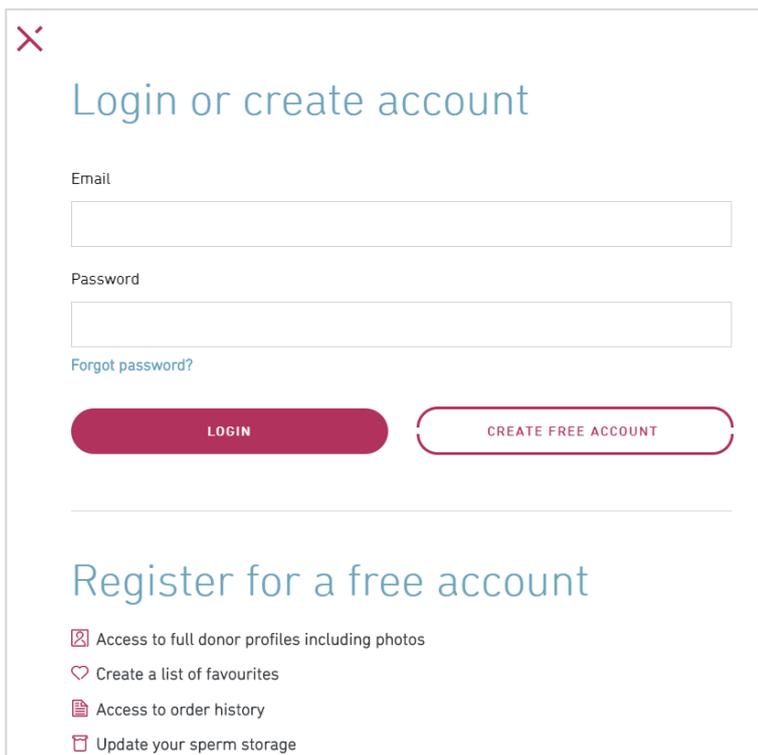
- Monthly Storage fees applies once samples arrive in Genea Newcastle
- Samples can be stored for a maximum of 15 years from date of sperm collection
- To protect the privacy of the donor, and the conditions of the contract between ESB and Genea Newcastle, ESB sperm cannot be on-sold, returned to ESB, or transferred to another facility.

Log in via: europeanspermbank.com

Click the person symbol:



Sign in:



✕

Login or create account

Email

Password

[Forgot password?](#)

LOGIN **CREATE FREE ACCOUNT**

Register for a free account

- Access to full donor profiles including photos
- Create a list of favourites
- Access to order history
- Update your sperm storage

Pricing

Straws: Charged to clients and paid directly to ESB at a current cost of €1278 per straw. There is a minimum purchase of 6 straws per patient = €7668 euros. Actual cost varies due to the exchange rate and current ESB pricing policy. This pricing is current as at June 2020; pricing is updated annually, so please check with ESB.

Shipping: Paid to Genea Newcastle clinic, and is inclusive of “Admin Fee” = \$1000. Payment must be made before samples will be shipped.

Quarantine of Donor Gametes

It is a legal requirement that donor gametes are frozen for a minimum of 3 months before they are used. At the end of this time, the donor is required to have a screening blood test for infectious diseases. This is to minimize the risk of the child or mother being infected by the donated gametes. The ESB donors are only made available for selection on the website to recipients after their screening results are cleared.

When Can Treatment start?

If you are considering treatment using a European Sperm Donor, once confirmation is received that samples have arrived at Genea Newcastle, recipients can start treatment straight away.

Considerations before commencing treatment

- What are the chances of success?
- How will the process affect me and my family?
- Is fertilisation of the eggs and pregnancy guaranteed?
- Once in the process, can I withdraw at any time?
- Will I feel the baby is mine?
- How do I feel about openness?
- Will I feel disappointed if it doesn't work?
- Dealing with non-pregnant results

You may withdraw from the program at any time if you are not comfortable. We request that you inform us of this decision.

Additional Children

You will know how many samples you have in storage and can plan your treatment. However, if you are successful in having a baby, and you have no ESB samples remaining in storage, you may contact ESB directly to see if they have any more of the same samples available for purchase. A sperm storage fee will be payable to Genea Newcastle if you choose to do this.

Legal Considerations

1) Legal

It is now a legal requirement that the donor's personal information is placed on the Central Register, NSW Dept of Health & that they are agreeable to the child having access to this information when they reach 18 years of age. If a recipient creates and freezes embryos using ESB sperm, all treatment must be undertaken at Genea Newcastle. This is an agreement with ESB to protect the privacy of the donor.

Parentage

The law considers a woman who gives birth to a child to be the mother of that child. If there is a partner, the partner of the woman being treated will have their name on the birth certificate. Both are equal parents under the law regardless of genetic relatedness.

The donor's name will not be included on the birth certificate. Donors are assured that they will be under no legal or financial obligation to the child.

Information for ESB Recipients

NSW Legislation for Donor Gametes

From January 2010, the NSW government introduced legislation regarding the use of donor gametes (sperm or eggs) or embryos. This is called the Assisted Reproductive Technologies Act (ART Act).

Once a child has been born from donation, the clinic is required to put the information on the Health Department Central Register. The donor's details will be recorded so that the child can access them once they are 18 years old.

Whilst the ART Act does not compel parents to tell a child that they are donor conceived, it is recommended that the child is told and is aware of the Central Register.

Donors may access the Central Register and will be told the year of birth and sex of any children born from their donation. The donor does not have the right to have the identifying information of the child(ren) born through their donation even when the child is an adult.

The NSW Ministry of Health has developed fact sheets to give information to all parties involved. Please use the links below.

The NSW Ministry of Health:

www.health.nsw.gov.au/art/Pages/default.aspx

The Central Register:

www.health.nsw.gov.au/art/Pages/The-Central-Register.aspx

Information for donors on the ART Act 2007:

www.health.nsw.gov.au/art/Publications/brochure-information-for-donors.pdf

Information for parents on the ART Act 2007:

www.health.nsw.gov.au/art/Publications/brochure-info-for-parents.pdf

Information for donor conceived individuals on the ART Act 2007:

www.health.nsw.gov.au/art/Pages/I-was-donor-conceived-after-1-January-2010.aspx

- 2) **Contractual** As the provider of the donor gametes, ESB also require reports of all confirmed pregnancies and their outcomes. This information is provided to ESB by Genea Newcastle. ESB collect data so they can gather statistics on the quality of the samples they are providing and as they have your personal information when you purchase the sperm samples they are able to collate data regarding female age and type of treatment used and pregnancy outcomes. Pregnancy outcomes include a single livebirth, multiple birth, ectopic pregnancy or miscarriage; and baby information including a healthy baby and/or genetic or physical abnormalities.

What to do First?

Summary:

1. Research the ESB website, and request copies of the available donor profiles available for Genea. If you find one suitable, ask ESB to put an allocation “on hold” for you until you have seen the Specialist and the counsellor. (ESB will only keep samples “on hold” for a limited time frame)
2. Make an appointment with the specialist of your choice: Dr McIlveen, Dr Fuller or Dr Holland.
3. Attend interview with Emma Bullen, the Genea Newcastle counsellor
4. Purchase your samples from ESB and pay Genea Newcastle ESB admin fee.
5. Attend nursing and accounts interview at Genea Newcastle
6. Once samples have arrived in the clinic you will be contacted to arrange a treatment timetable. Treatment cannot commence until the ESB samples have arrived in the clinic.

Consultation Requirements

Initial Consultations

Recipients need a referral from their GP to see one of the Specialists who are associated with Genea Newcastle, Dr McIlveen, Dr Fuller or Dr Holland. Partners of recipients are also required to attend. A medical history is taken, and procedures are explained by your specialist Doctor.

Appointments must then be made to see the Genea Counsellor, Accounts and Nurse Coordinator. Depending on where you are in decision making on which treatment you use It may be possible these appointments can be made on the same day if you live at a distance.

The consultation with the counsellor is an opportunity to discuss the implications of receiving donor sperm for you and your family and any potential children. The counsellor will raise issues to be considered regarding legal, emotional, physical, relationship and genetic aspects of donation. We believe it is important that everyone participating in a donor/recipient program has plenty of time to reach an informed decision. The consultation process is designed to give all parties time to gain information and feel comfortable with their decisions. The counsellor is available to support you throughout the whole process in needed, not only for legislatively required implications counselling.

The nursing consultation outlines the treatment process you will be using. Screening blood tests will be taken at this appointment.

Costs

Our Accounts department will provide you with an estimate of fees for the treatment itself as part of the interview process. This is as separate fee to the cost of the ESB sperm samples; and varies depending on the type of treatment your Doctor decides is most appropriate for you.

Eligibility for Medicare Rebate

To be eligible for Medicare, you must be an Australian resident and have a Medicare number. Medical infertility is also a determining factor. This will be determined by the Fertility Specialist.

Women in a heterosexual relationship requiring the use of donor sperm are eligible for a Medicare rebate.

Women who are single, or in a same sex relationship, need to be deemed medically infertile to be eligible for a Medicare rebate. This will be determined by the Specialist.

Treatment Options

Donor Insemination (DI)

In this treatment, the woman has a series of blood tests to determine the ovulation day in the cycle. On the day of ovulation, a procedure, similar to a pap smear occurs, where a speculum is placed in the vagina, and the sperm is placed at the cervix using a small catheter.

All ESB donors offered for Genea have semen parameters of high quality, so all of them are available to be used for donor insemination.

The other determining factor for using DI as a treatment option, will be the fertility of the woman. Does she have open fallopian tubes, a history of pelvic inflammatory disease, or endometriosis? These are some of the issues that need investigation by your doctor before considering this treatment option.

Donor Insemination is simpler, non-invasive and less costly per cycle. Usually the limit of DI is 3 cycles, and if not pregnant, we recommend moving onto IVF.

In-Vitro Fertilisation using ICSI with Donor Sperm (DICI)

The most common treatment using donor sperm at Genea is through IVF using Intra Cytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI). Pregnancy rates using IVF are superior to Insemination cycles across all age groups; however, the process is more invasive and more costly.

This requires stimulation of the ovaries using hormone injections, ultrasound scans and blood tests to determine the correct day for egg retrieval from the woman's ovaries. Once the eggs are collected they are injected with the sperm and the embryos maintained within the incubators for 5 days.

It is important to note that not all eggs will fertilise (normally around 2/3rds will do so) and of those that do fertilise, not all embryos may be of good enough quality to freeze.

On the 5th day the best (single) embryo is transferred to the recipient's uterus. Any excess embryos, if suitable, are frozen for use later. Approximately 95% of embryos which are stored will survive the freeze-thaw process, however 5% will not, despite apparently normal appearances at the time of freezing them.

Information for ESB Recipients

Embryo Transfer Procedure

Embryo transfer is a simple procedure. The procedure is similar to a pap smear and takes approximately 10-15 minutes.

Afterwards

Eight days after the embryo transfer, a blood test is mandatory to confirm if pregnancy has or has not occurred.

About 6 weeks after the embryo transfer an ultrasound will be done to assess that the pregnancy is continuing normally.

What are the chances of pregnancy?

The age of the woman is the most definitive determining factor in success rates.

A younger woman has a much greater likelihood of a successful pregnancy than a woman older than 42 years using her own eggs. Specific success rates relating to your age can be provided; please discuss these statistics with your Fertility Specialist.

Decisions Over the Use of the Donated Gametes

Once the donor has donated their sperm, they can revoke or modify their consent until the sperm is used by the recipient, or an embryo has been created. Embryos are the property of the recipient(s).

The recipient(s) can use the donated sperm in whatever treatment option their Fertility Specialist recommends and can have as many children as they wish.

The donor gives up all legal rights and responsibilities for the child when they sign consent forms to donate their sperm.

Risks and Side Effects

As with any medical treatment there are some risks associated with receiving donated sperm and having fertility treatment. Precautions are taken to ensure the risks are minimised as much as possible for all parties involved.

Please make a list of any concerns you have so you can discuss them with your Fertility Specialist and Nurse co-ordinator. The Clinic Counsellor can assist with social, ethical and legal considerations.

Detailed discussion will take place during your appointments with your Fertility Specialist, Clinic Counsellor, Accounts Dept staff, and Nurse Co-ordinator.