



# Egg donation

Could you be an egg donor and..... *'Help create a family'*

There are 1000's of women in the UK who need egg donation treatment. Some of these women are fortunate enough to have a relative or friend who can help them, but many couples do not and need the help and generosity of an egg donor. Unfortunately there is a national shortage of egg donors. Could you help? Could you be an egg donor and give another women the chance to become pregnant and help to create a family?

There is a great demand for donor eggs. Maybe you know someone who is unable to have a baby and the heartache it causes. The generosity of a woman who is prepared to donate eggs can change everything for a childless couple and give them the chance to have the family they so desperately want.

We want to raise awareness of the need for donor eggs, to recruit donors and to keep waiting lists for recipients down to a minimum.

**Why does Origin need egg donors?**

There are 100's of women in Northern Ireland who require egg donation but the number of women willing to donate is much lower.

## Why would someone need donor eggs?

There are a number of reasons why someone might need treatment with donor eggs. Examples are:

- ❖ where a woman has no ovaries or has had them removed
- ❖ producing too few or very poor quality eggs
- ❖ premature menopause
- ❖ ovarian failure due to chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy treatment
- ❖ where there is a risk of genetic abnormality if the woman is a carrier of a genetic disorder
- ❖ previous unsuccessful IVF cycles using own eggs

## Who can donate?

You should be under 35 years of age, in good health, preferably having had your own family and with no history of genetic disorders. Many women consider donating their eggs when they are sterilised for example.

## Will I meet the recipient?

All treatment is confidential and although egg donation can be provided by a donor not known to the recipient, the names of all donors and recipients are recorded and held by the HFEA.

## Could any child ever trace me?

Since April 2005, any child conceived as a result of egg donation can contact the HFEA when they reach the age of 18 years to obtain the identity of the donor. At this time donors and recipients could potentially meet.

## What information will the recipient be given about me?

We try to match donor and recipient physical characteristics as closely as possible. All information given to the recipient will be non-identifying and confidential.

## Will I have to pay for treatment?

No, all medical expenses will be covered by the Clinical.

Expenses such as travel to and from the clinic and loss of earnings will be reimbursed.

### How many visits will I have to make to the clinic?

Under normal circumstances, donors make four - six visits to the clinic.

### What happens during the first visit?

This is an opportunity for you to find out more about egg donation. This appointment does not commit you in any way to becoming an egg donor.

### Will I have counselling?

If you decide to become an egg donor you will be seen by our counsellor to give you the opportunity to discuss the ethical, legal and social aspects of egg donation. This is to ensure that you are given and have understood sufficient information in order to make an informed decision. You can make use of our free counselling service which is available to all patients before, during and after treatment.

### What will happen if I change my mind?

You are free to withdraw consent to the egg donation at any time until the embryos are used, without threat of financial penalty or fear of recrimination. If you are undergoing sterilisation or other related surgery, those procedures will still be performed on the terms already agreed.

### How many times can I donate?

This will be a joint decision between you and your doctor (however, the law states that no more than ten children should be born from any one donor).

### Will being a donor affect my fertility?

Many donors have donated several times and have continued to have children of their own.

### What support is available?

If you have any questions before, during or after your donation, please feel free to call our staff in the unit, who will be glad to help. You can make an appointment with our counsellor during or after your treatment.

Where do I go from here?

If you would like more information or would like to become an egg donor please contact our egg donation co-ordinator Julie Hinks 028 9076 1713 or email [julieh@originfertilitycare.com](mailto:julieh@originfertilitycare.com).

You can also visit our website [www.originfertilitycare.com](http://www.originfertilitycare.com).

Or follow us on facebook / twitter.