

Donor Sperm Program

There are numerous reasons women or couples may opt to use donor sperm, including for women and couples where the male partner has a low or no sperm count, women who do not have a partner or women in same sex relationships. Demeter Fertility established one of Australia's first donor programs back in 2010 and currently has a comprehensive donor sperm program with options for both local and international donors through contracts with more than six donor banks offering over 50 donor profiles.

What is a donor?

Donor fertility treatment is when the sperm or egg (or both) used to create embryos for a patient or couple is donated to them from someone else. Under NSW and Australia law, a donor cannot be paid for donating their gametes (egg, sperm or embryo). Donated gametes can come in two ways:

Known Donor

Somebody sourced by the patient or couple and is someone usually known to them (e.g. a friend or family member) who provides a sperm sample, and then donates the gametes through a legal process (signing of papers) to the parent or couple to use.

Unknown Donor

Occurs when a patient or couple purchases some deidentified donor sperm through a fertility clinic or certified legal bank. There are no certified banks in Australia, however Demeter Fertility sources gametes from international banks through contracted agreements.

How does it work?

- 1. See a doctor** - Speak to a Demeter Fertility specialist about your goals and treatment options, then undertake a medical assessment to identify treatable infertility causes and the options and recommendations based on your specific situation.
- 2. Screening and Tests** - Donors undergo comprehensive screening: medical and personal history, semen analysis, physical exam, blood/urine tests, and genetic screening, it is important for patients to undergo similar testing to ensure donors align.
- 3. Meet NSW and Australia legal requirements** - this includes undergoing mandatory counselling sessions and some blood and genetic tests.
- 4. Pick a donor** - Speak to our Donor Coordinator about the process and then peruse and pick from our available donors. Unique supply agreements allow us to source donors in <2 weeks once you're ready to pick a donor.
- 5. Begin your treatment** - once all your donor requirements are met and you have a donor picked, bought and shipped to our clinic, you can start your treatments when you are comfortable and ready.

Program Costs

Your treatment cycle involves a standard IVF/ICSI cycle and will vary depending on your personal treatment plan with medications, doctors visits, counselling support, egg collection preference (local or general anaesthetic). Some donor cycles may not be eligible for medicare, so it is important to speak to one of our doctors to better understand your circumstances and cycle options.

Costs for donor sperm is dependant on the bank you choose to go with, however we estimate a sample for 6 straws (one straw per IVF/ICSI cycle) costing approximately \$2500AUD.

