

## **INFORMATION FOR EGG SHARE DONORS (EGG PROVIDERS)**

### **INTRODUCTION**

With limited NHS funding available for IVF, many couples with fertility problems are unable to afford the treatment they need. Similarly for many years there has been a national shortage of donor eggs available to those women who cannot produce their own. NURTURE introduced the Egg Share Scheme in May 1999 in an attempt to make IVF treatment more accessible and also to help those couples who need donor eggs for their treatment. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority has now brought out formal guidelines (December 2000) and our Egg Share Scheme has been updated in accordance with these guidelines.

**The minimum number of eggs for sharing is 8.**

NURTURE's Egg Share Scheme has been designed to safeguard the interests of all parties involved. All couples wishing to join the scheme as egg providers will undergo screening, genetic testing and counselling which are pre-requisite to being accepted onto the scheme. All aspects of treatment and legal implications will be discussed along with the couple's feelings about becoming an egg provider and the consequences of success and failure.

### **THE CRITERIA FOR ENTRY TO THE EGG SHARE SCHEME ARE:**

- to be aged between 18 and 35 years old
- to have both ovaries but not have polycystic ovaries
- to have a body mass index (BMI) of less than 35. Please telephone the Unit with your height and weight and we will inform you if you are eligible.
- to have an FSH (hormone) level of less than 9 IU/L
- to undergo counselling
- to be screened for CMV, HIV, Hepatitis B and C, VDRL and Cystic Fibrosis
- to complete a genetic questionnaire in order to rule out the possibility of an inherited condition being passed on

Please bear in mind that all test results, including assessment of the genetic questionnaire, consultation and counselling must be completed at least 3 months before a donor's 36<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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### **COSTS**

**ALL IVF treatment at NURTURE is FREE for the donating couple, however they will pay £550 to cover the cost of the drugs\* which should be collected from NURTURE (unless their GP is able to pay for the drugs). There is a registration**

**fee of £120, which will be paid at the time of the preliminary egg share appointment. If however, you are found to be ineligible to join the scheme, this will be refunded. There is a further payment of £130 for the semen analysis and HIV, Hepatitis B and C tests for the male partner. Screening tests for the egg provider, egg collection under general anaesthetic, IVF and embryo transfer, and counselling will be FREE of charge.**

**Any extra costs of ICSI (intracytoplasmic sperm injection) or surgical sperm recovery will be payable by the egg providing couple.**

\*Cost of £550 based on drugs provided by the unit: buserelin subcutaneous injection, Menopur, hCG and Cyclogest only. Sufficient drugs will be prescribed to cover treatment up to the pregnancy test. Drugs required after a positive pregnancy test or any additional drugs to the standard medication outlined above will be funded by the egg provider.

If a recipient couple withdraws from treatment after the egg provider has started treatment and no suitable recipient couple can be found to replace them, the egg provider's treatment cycle will continue as planned.

## **TREATMENT PATHWAY**

- Step 1** Obtain referral from own doctor (unless an existing patient of NURTURE)
- Step 2** Screening tests, completion of genetic questionnaire and "characteristics" form
- Step 3** Consultation with NURTURE consultant, semen analysis and signing of consent forms
- Step 4** Counselling session with the NURTURE counsellor
- Step 5** Commence IVF treatment

Egg providers may have to wait up to 3 months before starting an egg share treatment cycle.

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## HOW ARE THE EGGS SHARED?

Several options are available depending upon the number of eggs collected. However, the egg recipient will always be "guaranteed" to receive a minimum of 4 eggs. The chosen option must be agreed to at consent stage. The options will be discussed in much greater detail at consultation, but are summarised below:

- If there are 8 or more eggs collected they will be split equally between the egg provider and the recipient. If there is an odd number of eggs the provider will have the option to either keep or donate the 'extra' egg.
- If the egg provider has 7 eggs or less she keeps all the eggs and NURTURE will still carry out the IVF treatment **free of charge**
- If less than 3 follicles develop the cycle will be cancelled (see below)

All eggs are shared immediately after egg collection

**It is important to bear in mind that not all eggs may be suitable for treatment. Whilst we do ask you to sign the consent forms before treatment commences, as an egg provider you have the right to change your mind or to withdraw from the Egg Share Scheme at any time, up until embryo transfer. If you wish to keep all your eggs, you will have to pay for the treatment including the full cost of drugs.**

## CANCELLATION OF TREATMENT

Occasionally treatment cycles have to be cancelled (e.g. due to the risk of ovarian hyperstimulation or poor response to stimulation drugs). In such circumstances it is very important to have a clear agreement in place.

NURTURE's conditions are:

- If a cycle is cancelled due to the risk of ovarian hyperstimulation the egg provider will be offered a further egg share donation cycle **free of charge** using a revised ovarian stimulation protocol.
- If less than 3 follicles develop the cycle will be cancelled. No further treatment will be offered on the Egg Share Scheme, although you may undertake self-funded treatment with a revised protocol.
- If a cycle is cancelled for another reason e.g. failed fertilisation or failed egg collection a free review consultation will be offered.