



BCRM Guide to Purchasing Donor Sperm

Patient Information



This leaflet is to support you in purchasing Donor Sperm. Before you make your reservation you must have had a consultation with one of the BCRM medical team who will guide you through the appropriate investigations and agree a treatment plan with you.

Please note in all circumstances, your Donor Sperm must be in store within the laboratory at Bristol Centre for Reproductive Medicine (BCRM) before commencing treatment.

Where to Purchase Donor Sperm

BCRM have a stock of donors ready to use that meet all the requirements we recommend for treatment and are fully compliant with the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) regulations. The donors we have in stock are supplied by the Sperm Bank, Cryos International.

If you would like to view the list of donors we have available at the BCRM please email the Donor Sperm Team at **DonorSperm@BCRM.Clinic** for the current list of availability.

We also are very happy to accept Donor Sperm purchased from an external clinic for your treatment use. The BCRM has third party and HFEA agreements in place to import from the below sperm banks/clinics; all of which have thorough screening programs in place which match or exceed UK guidelines.

If you are purchasing sperm from an external source, the process can take several weeks as there are documents to check and complete, and clearance to be organised before the transfer of samples can take place.



Sperm Bank Name	Website	Location	Comments
Cryos International	www.cryosinternational.com	Denmark	Discount Code: 'BCRMCODE'
Semovo	www.buysperm.co.uk	UK	
London Sperm Bank	www.londonspermbank.com	UK	
European Sperm Bank	www.europeanspermbank.com	Denmark	
Fairfax Cryobank	www.fairfaxcryobank.com	America	American Sperm Banks carry out extensive screening; please be aware that all test results must be negative to be compliant with UK regulation requirements
Xytex	www.xytex.com	America	
California Cryobank	www.cryobank.com	America	

Legal Information

- All UK compliant donors agree to be identifiable to any child once they reach 18 years of age
- UK Regulation limits each donor usage to up to 10 family units; one slot is taken for each family where a live birth is achieved
- Donor Sperm can be stored in the UK for a maximum of 55 years from the date of initial freeze and must be used within this time-frame. Due to a change in regulations, some donors will only be able to be stored for a 10-year period which starts when the samples arrive in the UK, if purchased from an external sperm bank/clinic.

Choosing a Donor

Clinics/sperm banks selling Donor Sperm typically allow you to view donor characteristics such as ethnicity, eye and hair colour, height and weight, and general health details. There may also be general information about the donor available too. Choosing a donor for your treatment is a very personal thing, it is important you feel very confident of the choice you make.

What type of Donor Sperm and how many?

The supplying clinics/sperm banks will offer samples as "ampoules (amps)", "vials" or "straws". You will require one sample for each treatment i.e. one cycle of IUI or one cycle of IVF. You may wish to purchase more than one sample if you are considering siblings or for the instance that you are not successful on your first attempt.



BCRM recommend MOT10 samples or above for IVF/ICSI treatments and MOT20 for IUI treatment, as research has found higher success rates with the higher motility samples. However, you could use MOT10 for either treatment if you really want to use a particular donor and MOT10 is all that is available.

- Our preference is 'IUI Ready' and 'Washed' samples as these have already been prepared for treatment and are therefore likely to maintain the same quality and quantity of sample as advertised when thawed for use.
- If the samples are 'Unwashed' you must choose MOT20 or above (for both IVF or IUI) as the samples will require preparation and the quantity is likely to reduce.
- Lower MOT or 'ART' samples are likely to lead to the samples being poorer when prepared and this may be suboptimal for your treatment. Please contact us to discuss if your chosen donor only has limited options.
- If there are no MOT options, the clinic/sperm bank will be providing samples they are confident are suitable for all treatment types.

Cytomegalovirus (CMV)

Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is a common virus that is usually harmless, however it can cause problems in babies if caught during pregnancy (congenital CMV). You will need to be screened for CMV and be aware of your status; if you are negative, we recommend selecting a CMV negative donor to remove the risk of infection. If you are CMV positive you may choose either a positive or negative donor. (Same sex couples are advised to both undertake the testing if you wish to both undertake treatment using the same donor).

Blood Group Matching

Blood group matching isn't important unless you would specifically like to match the donor blood group to your partner. If you are Rhesus negative, you might like to look at further information about Rhesus disease on the NHS website.

BCRM Important Considerations

- The donor must be UK compliant
- CMV status of the donor must be negative unless you are CMV positive yourself
- MOT20+ samples are recommended for IUI treatments
- MOT10 or MOT20 are recommended for IVF/ICSI treatments
- One sample is needed for each treatment cycle (per egg collection/IUI cycle) – you may wish to purchase additional samples for future use
- You must have an 'Implications Counselling' session prior to treatment with a trained Fertility Counsellor



Cost

BCRM sample charges are provided with the list of donor availability and are inclusive of the sample, family quota and a year of storage.

External Donor Sperm costs vary and regularly change, it is best to look at the websites for their current costs. Some clinics quote a single price with everything included, others may charge for the samples, family quota and transport (shipping) separately. BCRM charges an Administration Fee of £380 (subject to change) for imports outside of the UK which covers the compliance checks, donor registration and storage of the sample(s) for a year.

After 12 months, annual storage fees will apply to any samples held in the laboratory at BCRM.

Purchasing from an External Source

Once you have selected a donor, you will need to purchase the samples directly from the supplying clinic/sperm bank (usually via their website). We would recommend the nitrogen dry shipper option. This is a robust metal container which will be cold for 15 - 17 days and therefore protects the samples in the event of delay e.g. flight delays or Border Control.

Once payment has been made the clinic/sperm bank will send the relevant donor information required for processing prior to an import date being agreed. The process will take up to two weeks and is dependent on information from external sources.

What to do when you have made your choice?

Please email DonorSperm@BCRM.Clinic to inform the Donor Sperm Team when you have purchased your Donor Sperm with the following details:

- Name, date of birth and BCRM number of the patient who will be undergoing the treatment cycle
- The name of the supplying clinic/sperm bank (including if this is BCRM) with the Donor name or number, number of samples and MOT type

Further Help and Information

The Donor Sperm Team are very happy to help with any queries you have. Please contact us via **DonorSperm@BCRM.Clinic**

**Address**

BCRM - Bristol Centre for Reproductive Medicine
135 Aztec West
Almondsbury
Bristol
BS32 4UB

**Telephone**

0117 259 1159

**Email**

Contact@BCRM.clinic