



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 European Sperm Bank and Cryos International, as well as donors recruited as part of BCRM's Sperm Donation Programme.

Following your initial consultation with BCRM, the Donor Sperm Team will be in touch and send through the current list of donors we have available at the BCRM.

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'
European Sperm Bank	www.europeanspermbank.com/en/signup/350	Denmark	Discount available when registering through link
London Sperm Bank	www.londonspermbank.com	UK	
Semovo	www.buysperm.co.uk	UK	
Sussex Sperm Bank	www.sussexspermbank.com	UK/America	
Fairfax Cryobank	www.fairfaxcryobank.com/uk/bcrm	America	
Xytex	www.xytex.com	America	
California Cryobank	www.cryobank.com	America	

Please be aware some donors being sold are known carriers for genetic conditions. This is especially common with American Sperm Banks as they carry out extensive screening. **If you have selected a donor who is a known carrier, please contact the Donor Sperm Team to discuss ahead of arranging purchase.**

Legal Information

- All UK compliant donors agree to be identifiable to any child once they reach 18 years of age
- UK Regulation limits usage of each donor 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 as long as the donor consents (up to a maximum of 55 years). If there is less than 5 years remaining, we will let you know

BCRM Sperm Donors

BCRM recruit our own sperm donors as part of our Sperm Donation Programme. We have a dedicated sperm donation team here at BCRM, led by Senior Andrologist, Karla Turner. BCRM recruit donors aged between 18 and 45 who are in good health. They undergo medical and lifestyle checks, and are usually asked to donate weekly for up to 12 months, with a final screening 90 days later to ensure samples are safe for use.

You will receive the BCRM sperm donor profiles alongside the initial information email you will receive from the BCRM Donor Sperm Team.

BCRM samples are prepared using ZyMot which is a tool which prepares motile sperm for reproductive technology procedures. The device mimics how sperm naturally travel through the female reproductive system and separates the best quality sperm. Further information on ZyMot can be found on our website and patient information leaflets.



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 usually require one sample for each treatment i.e. one cycle of IUI or one egg collection cycle. You may wish to purchase more than one sample if you are considering siblings or in the instance that you may require further treatment. Please bear in mind that donors that have samples available now, may not have samples available at a later date.

Some sperm banks, including BCRM, will sell samples by treatment rather than per straw, for example a donor may require 3 samples per treatment for optimal treatment results.

BCRM recommends MOT10 or samples designated 'suitable for IVF' for IVF treatments. For IUI treatment BCRM recommends MOT20 or samples designated 'suitable for IUI', as research has found higher success rates with the higher motility samples.

- 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

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). It is BCRM policy for our patients using donor sperm 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.*

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cytomegalovirus-cmv/>



Blood Group Matching

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

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/rhesus-disease/>

BCRM Important Considerations

- The donor must be UK compliant
- We recommend the CMV status of the donor must be negative unless you are CMV positive yourself
- MOT20 or samples suitable for IUI are recommended for IUI treatments
- MOT10 or samples suitable for IVF are recommended for IVF
- If you are proceeding with ICSI treatment, you may be able to proceed with lower motility samples. Please speak to the Donor Sperm Team for further information
- One sample is needed for each treatment cycle (per egg collection/IUI cycle) – you may wish to purchase additional samples for future use
- It is a BCRM requirement that you must have an 'Implications Counselling' session prior to treatment with a trained Fertility Counsellor (please see our website or information leaflet for further information)
- The HFEA 10 family limit is only applicable to the UK. If the donor has agreed to treatments internationally or you are purchasing from a donor bank abroad, it is likely there will be more families created in other countries. This includes donors from BCRM bulk stock bought in from Cryos or European Sperm Bank

Cost

Charges for BCRM samples are provided with the list of donor availability which will be sent to you following your consultation. This charge is inclusive of the sample, family quota and 1 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 for imports from the external banks we work with. This covers the compliance checks, donor registration and storage of the sample(s) for 1 year.

Please be aware after 12 months, annual storage fees will apply to any samples held in the laboratory at BCRM. These charges are subject to change and will be shared with you at the time. Current charges can be found on our website.



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 generally 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. If you have any queries regarding shipping, please contact us.

Once payment has been made, the clinic/sperm bank will send the relevant donor information required to us for processing prior to an import date being agreed. The process will take around 2-3 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)
- Donor name or number
- Number of samples purchased
- Sample 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

DonorSperm@BCRM.clinic