



Egg Donor Options

What is Donor Egg IVF?

Donor Egg IVF is a fertility treatment which uses donated eggs (oocytes). All eggs are then fertilized with your partner's sperm or donor sperm, and typically one good-quality embryo is transferred into your uterus. Success with a single embryo transfer ranges from 50-65% per transfer. Often you will create more than one embryo with one cycle of donor egg IVF. In this case, embryos not transferred will be kept frozen (vitrified) for future chances of success.

To promote the safety, well-being, and best interest of you, your baby, and the egg donor, NRM follows all the F.D.A required and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (A.S.R.M.) recommended guidelines. While there is no method to completely ensure that infectious agents will not be transmitted from the donor egg to you, or from you to your baby, these guidelines, combined with information about everyone's history, should significantly reduce these risks.

Anonymous egg donors are typically between the ages of 21-34 and undergo a medically-stimulated growth of multiple egg follicles to donate a number of eggs to you for fertilization with your sperm. Donors are screened by medical professionals to determine their overall health and to determine if their history suggests hereditary disease, but screening does not detect all forms of genetic disease. Proven fertility of the egg donor is desired but not required, given that many egg donors are young and have not yet attempted to become pregnant.

EGG DONOR FAQs

What are my options for selecting an egg donor?

- 1. NRM "FRESH" EGG DONOR:** Fresh egg donors are individual donors who have been screened by NRM and are waiting to be matched with a couple. They are called "fresh" egg donors because they will go through a cycle once you match with them, and you will fertilize the eggs immediately to create your embryos. The embryos will then be frozen for your future use.

PROS:



- Success: Fresh egg donors represent the highest chance of success, over frozen egg donors, due to minimizing the number of steps involved (the eggs are not frozen, thawed, or shipped).
 - Eggs are single-celled and historically have been difficult to freeze and thaw successfully. While techniques have advanced significantly over time, fertilizing an egg when it is fresh takes out some of the risks of the process (for example, the risk of freezing and thawing the eggs, the risk of transporting the eggs from another facility).
- Number of eggs: With a Fresh NRM egg donor, you will receive the entire batch; all of eggs from that donor cycle. In other words, the donor's eggs are not split up between couples (as they are with frozen egg banks) This means that you typically have more embryos to work with from a fresh donor cycle; often a fresh donor cycle will result in enough embryos for more than one child.
- Cost: Typically, a fresh egg donor cycle is more affordable per egg than purchasing eggs from an egg bank.

CONS:

- Selection: Our NRM egg donor bank may be smaller than a national frozen egg bank. NRM works with local young, healthy donors and the availability of our donors may vary over time.
- Cycle cancellation risk: While risk of cycle cancellation of a young egg donor is low, remember that a fresh egg donor is a live human being going through the ovarian stimulation process. For reasons including some that are outside of anyone's control, egg donors may need to cancel their cycle. This can occur at any point in the process, resulting in the need to wait to start a new cycle. Examples of cycle cancellation include by are not limited to:
 - Poor response: While unusual based on the screening efforts (Age, AMH testing and Antral Follicle Count assessment of ovarian reserve), a first-time donor may not have proven fertility (they may not have children of their own either by choice or because of their young age). Like anyone else, their fertility is not guaranteed, and their response could be less than what we expect.



- o A positive COVID test or other illness preventing the procedure from moving forward.
- o A positive infectious disease test, mandated by the FDA to be performed within 30 days of egg retrieval. Donors are tested for gonorrhea, chlamydia, Hepatitis, Syphilis, and HIV. (Note: initial infectious disease testing is performed on all donors during the pre-screening process, and no donor is accepted with positive tests on pre-screening OR with any signs/symptoms of infectious disease).
- o A sudden emergency in the donor's life.

Notes: Sometimes when a donor is cancelled, this simply involves a time delay until that same donor can start again. At other times, the donor is disqualified, and you will need to match with another donor. While the NRM egg donor coordinating team makes every effort to move egg donors safely and effectively through the process, we cannot guarantee a successful cycle.

To register and access NRM's fresh egg donor bank, use the following link:

<https://northeasternreproductive.eggdonorconnect.com/registration>

2. NRM "REPEAT FRESH" EGG DONOR: Repeat donors are those who have previously cycled at NRM as a donor.

PROS:

- The same as above for Fresh Donor- Higher success, cheaper cost per number of eggs.
- "Proven": In addition, a repeat donor has successfully stimulated as a donor previously and made blastocysts. The donor is "proven" *to have made an appropriate quantity of eggs and blastocysts* in a cycle (information regarding whether a live born infant resulted may or may not be available). While the



response may not be exactly the same each cycle, you can be more confident in the ability of a good response from a proven donor.

CONS:

- Cost: The cost of a repeat donor is \$1000 more for their 2nd cycle, and \$2000 more for their third cycle, as your confidence can grow with each cycle they have successfully completed.
- 3. **FROZEN EGG BANK DONOR**: Various egg banks across the United States have eggs already banked by young, healthy, diverse donors, that individuals can purchase for fertilization at their local clinic. Eggs are shipped frozen to the local clinic. All the same screening is done on egg donors who donate to egg banks; the same FDA requirements are followed to optimize the safety of all involved.

PROS:

- Time/ Convenience: Egg banks such as Ovation Donor Services have eggs that are ready to use. The prescreening efforts and the actual stimulation cycle have already occurred by the time you select the donor.
- Stress: You do not need to undergo the stress of final egg donor screening, or the stimulation cycle with that egg donor. You already know how many eggs you will purchase and are not waiting to see how many eggs the donor produces.
- Selection: National egg banks may provide greater selection and diversity than the smaller NRM pool of fresh egg donors.

CONS:

- Higher cost: Frozen eggs typically cost more and are sold either per egg or in groups of eggs. For cost information, go to the websites for the specific egg bank, for example: <https://www.ovationeggdonor.com/>.
- Number of eggs: due to the higher cost per egg, patients using egg banks typically have fewer eggs to work with unless they elect to purchase more eggs; typically, we recommend at least 10 for every child you desire from that donor.

To view available frozen egg bank donors at Ovation Donor Services:



<https://www.ovationfertility.com/>

4. **AGENCY EGG DONOR**: Agency donors living anywhere in the U.S. who are recruited by a national agency and are pre-screened. These donors are willing to undergo a stimulation cycle and donate their eggs fresh. Agency donors travel to NRM to undergo the egg donation process. They have not yet stored their eggs, and hence are like "fresh" egg donors above.

PROS:

- Selection + Success: Agency egg donors present a nice combination of a fresh egg donor, with the pros a fresh egg donor affords (higher success, likely higher number of eggs) in conjunction with the greater selection that a national agency accesses.

CONS:

- COST: Agency egg donors are typically the most expensive of all egg donors due to agency fees
- Coordination: Agency egg donors typically live out of state and arrangements for travel need to be made to finalize screening and to coordinate the actual egg donation cycle at NRM.

5. **DIRECTED EGG DONOR**: A directed egg donor is a person known to you. A directed egg donor may be a friend or relative (although a directed egg donor can NOT be related to the person providing the sperm).

PROS:



- The “Known” factor: It is normal for patients to desire knowledge and/or a connection with their donor. There is the potential for a lifelong relationship, which may be both a benefit and/or a risk.
- Fresh egg donor: (lower risk/ slightly higher success depending on age of the egg donor)

CONS:

- Typically using a donor that is known to you adds a significant amount of legal, ethical, and relational complexity to the fertility process. While many couples initially view this as simpler, in many cases it is much more complicated.
 - The relationship will last for decades, and the evolution of the child’s life, as well as the lives of the parent(s) in conjunction with the known donor should be thoughtfully approached.
 - Legal arrangements and associated fees are required to proceed with a known or directed egg donor.

Where can I look at the available NRM Egg Donors?

<https://northeasternreproductive.eggdonorconnect.com/registration>

Are NRM egg donors anonymous?

NRM egg donors are non-identified, meaning NRM commits to safeguarding the personal information of donors and egg donor recipients/ intended parents, and to maintaining anonymity throughout the process. However, in the age of at-home DNA testing, we can no longer completely guarantee anonymity for egg donors - no one can.



How are NRM Egg Donors Screened?

- At Northeastern Reproductive Medicine, we screen healthy young women aged 21-34 to identify appropriate egg donors with the best chances of success.
- Egg donors undergo medical, psychological, genetic, and infectious disease screening prior to their acceptance to the program.
- NRM's Egg Donor Program follows all FDA guidelines.

To determine if donors are good candidates for the process, NRM egg donors undergo the following screening prior to being placed in our NRM directory. You will only see egg donors that have passed this pre- screening and are deemed eligible.

*Note: there is a final infectious disease screening process mandated by the FDA that occurs within 30 days of egg donation; although low risk, it is possible that a donor could be cancelled at this stage if something changes between their initial screening and this final screening. Your safety is our # 1 priority and donors are not eligible if they test positive for infectious disease.

Screening Process for NRM Egg Donors:

A. Pelvic Ultrasound:

1. Assessment of the pelvic anatomy, including the ovaries.
2. Antral follicle count. This is an assessment of how many potential egg follicles an egg donor has that might respond to stimulation and be available for egg retrieval.

B. Blood work:

1. **Genetic evaluation (Carrier Screen).** This is a blood test to determine if the donor carries any autosomal recessive diseases that could affect your pregnancy. You will see in the donor portal any genetic diseases for which the donor screened positive.
2. **Infectious disease labs** (HIV 1 and 2 and Group O antibody, Gonorrhea and Chlamydia, Syphilis/RPR, Hepatitis B Surface Antigen, Hepatitis B core antibody, Hepatitis C Antibody, West Nile Virus testing/ NAAT)
3. **Anti-Mullerian hormone:** serum biomarker of ovarian reserve.



C. FDA eligibility questionnaire and physical exam:

- A complete personal and sexual history is obtained to exclude those who might be at risk for sexually transmitted diseases or other infections that might be transmissible through gamete donation. This is completed every 6 months for active donors.

D. Counseling:

- The decision to donate eggs is complex and A.S.R.M. recommends a clinical discussion with a qualified mental health professional to address the moral, ethical, emotional, and social issues related to the donation process. (Updated every 24 months if the process is ongoing).