

Donor Sperm – there is no need to wait for treatment

The availability of donor sperm has been an issue of growing concern ever since the changes to the anonymity laws came into effect in April 2005. These changes, coupled with increased regulatory requirements, have resulted in a nationwide shortage of donor sperm.

Bridge is addressing the regulatory constraints, firstly by embarking on a major campaign to recruit donors under the new regulations – and we are succeeding.

It takes approximately one year to make a new donor available so, for patients requiring urgent treatment, we have made special treatment arrangements at Bridge-approved centres overseas. Finally, we are making UK donor sperm available under a new scheme called DonorShare.

Bridge DonorShare

Bridge **DonorShare** is a new approach to making UK donor sperm available under the current regulatory conditions.

By purchasing a **DonorShare** you are reserving one of the ten pregnancies for each donor allowed by the HFEA. It is an HFEA requirement that each sperm donor is limited to ten births/families (multiple births within a family are allowed). Each **DonorShare** purchaser will be guaranteed sufficient sperm for the intended course of treatment, even if several cycles are required.

The DonorShare programme gives priority to Bridge patients and we are making enormous efforts to recruit more donors – but it is still essential to act without delay if you wish to reserve a **DonorShare**. The current supply situation requires us to maintain a waiting list but, because new donors are completing the donation and testing periods, the likely waiting period is steadily coming down and is now less than four weeks for most patients.

If you have further questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the Bridge team.

Overseas Treatment

If you need immediate IVF/IUI treatment using donor sperm and are prepared to travel, we can arrange this with approved partner centres in Denmark, Ukraine and Greece.

All these centres have excellent stocks of donor sperm and arrangements can be made within a few days. All necessary tests and preparations will be carried out at Bridge and costs are virtually the same as those shown in our Schedule of Fees, except for the additional travel, accommodation and subsistence costs.

Favourable hotel arrangements can be made in each location. You should allow for a two night stay for IUI and six nights for IVF/ICSI.

For further information, contact any member of the Egg Donation Team on 020 7089 1455.