

Centre for Reproductive Medicine (CRM)

Sperm Freezing before Infertility Treatment (Back-up Storage)

Sperm storage gives our patients the opportunity to store a sample due to the increased risk of no sperm/sample produced on the day of egg collection. It may also be necessary to store a back-up sample before travel abroad or absence on the day of egg collection.

Consent forms and ID

Consent forms will be discussed and completed during your first visit to the CRM. You will have the opportunity to ask the Andrologist any questions during your consultation.

In addition to completing consent forms, we also require some form of photographic identification such as a driving license or passport, in order to confirm your identity prior to storing samples.

Back-up samples are stored for one year

It is quite likely that you will only need storage until your treatment is completed so all back up samples are stored for one year, often people who store sperm for back-up purposes never actually need to use it. However, if required, we are able to extend the storage period under certain circumstances. We will attempt to contact you at the end of the year to determine your wishes.

How much does it cost?

The first year's storage is free of charge. After this, further storage is charged on an annual basis according to the price list. This cost is reviewed annually and is currently £200.

How will the samples be obtained and stored?

Semen samples for freezing need to be produced by masturbation into a sterile container at the CRM.

An appointment will be arranged for you to attend the Centre for Reproductive Medicine to provide your specimen.

One sample is usually sufficient, but you may be asked to store further semen samples if necessary.

What do I need to do before storing samples?

At this unit our screening includes HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C and you will be required to have been tested for these viruses before we can go ahead with sperm banking. These blood tests will be arranged by staff at the Centre for Reproductive Medicine prior to your freezing appointment. By obtaining this information we are able to reduce the risk of cross-contamination.

How could the frozen sperm be used in the future?

We offer a range of assisted conception procedures here at the Centre for Reproductive Medicine, and the most appropriate one for you would depend upon several factors, including the quality of your samples, and your partner's medical history. We cannot guarantee that a pregnancy will occur after any form of assisted conception treatment. The likelihood of success will be discussed with you before you start assisted conception treatment. The quality of stored sperm should not significantly decline with time, and there is no evidence to suggest that the use of frozen sperm has a harmful effect on any resulting child. However, we cannot make any guarantees in this regard.

Storage of sperm does not automatically entitle you and your partner to be accepted for assisted conception treatment at a later date. All patients at the Centre for Reproductive Medicine are assessed prior to acceptance for treatment, with a view to ensuring the welfare of any potential child. If you wish, you may request that your stored sperm be moved to another storage or treatment centre. A charge is payable for this service.

Finding out more information.

Should you feel you would like to discuss sperm storage with a person independent of the semen storage service, we can arrange for a counsellor to contact you and arrange a confidential meeting.

Once you have sperm stored, you may contact the Centre for Reproductive Medicine at any time in the future to discuss any issues or queries you may have relating to sperm storage, your fertility or assisted conception treatment.

What happens once my samples are in storage?

It is vital once you have sperm in storage that you inform the Centre for Reproductive Medicine of any changes in your circumstances, for example if you change address.

Please note, the Centre for Reproductive Medicine is obliged by law to dispose of your sperm once it has reached its maximum storage date. If at any time we are unable to contact you at your given address we will use reasonable means to trace you, maintaining confidentiality.

Please note that whilst we take all reasonable precautions, the Centre for Reproductive Medicine cannot be held responsible for any accidental damage or loss of sperm samples whilst in storage.

Further information regarding sperm storage can be obtained from the Andrology service on: 02476 968873.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language, please contact the Quality Manager on (024) 76968864, and we will do our best to accommodate your needs. The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

Document History

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Department: CRM
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