

Donor Egg IVF Guidelines

Questions to Consider

- Why is Donor Egg IVF a better option for you and your partner than adoption or child-free living?
- Have you discussed using donor eggs with your family? Why or why not? What were their reactions?
- Who will you tell about your child's background and when?
- While you will be the gestational mother but not the child's genetic parent, your partner will be the child's genetic father. How does this make you feel?
- Have you thought about telling your child about their background? If so, when and how?
- Have you considered how you might feel if you did not get pregnant after all the interaction and sharing with a known donor?
- Have you and your partner discussed the number of embryos to be transferred? Are you aware that transferring more than one embryo may result in multiple pregnancy?
- Do you know what selective termination or selective reduction means? How do you feel about it? For example, do you know the risks of miscarriage from multiple pregnancies versus the chances of miscarriage from selective termination?
- Have you considered how you would feel if the child were born with a birth defect? Given that the male partner is the genetic father, what level of responsibility would he feel compared to the female partner?
- How would you feel if the donor provided eggs for another couple?

How to Choose an Egg Donor Agency

- What is the fee schedule for the provider's services? Do you have to pay a fee upfront? Is the fee refundable if you change your mind about a donor? What exactly do the fees cover? Does the agency charge a different amount if you pay cash, check, or credit card?
- What is the fee for the donor herself? Can she set her reimbursement herself? For example, if she has provided eggs before, has her price remained the same or gone up? If the recipient pays the donor's expenses, does the agency provide an itemized list of costs?
- What kind of screening is the donor required to have? Who performs the psychological screening? The agency or a third party? Is there an extra charge for psychological testing (i.e., MMPI)? Can you see the results of the testing? Can you have the donor tested by a third party of your choosing?
- Does the agency facilitate a meeting between you and the donor if you wish to meet? Does the agency provide anonymous donors, known donors, or both?
- What kinds of records and information are kept on egg donors, where, and for how long? Are they accessible in the future? For how long?
- What does the agency do to ensure a donor has not already donated too many times regarding resultant offspring?
- What is the legal contract the agency requires the donor to sign?

- How many donors does the agency match with recipients in a year? Out of the number of donors matched, how many stimulation cycles, egg retrievals, pregnancies, and births have resulted?
- Does the donor agency help an uninsured donor find medical coverage?

Finding an Egg Donor on Your Own

- An egg donor can be a relative or friend, or you may want to find a donor on your own rather than using an egg donor agency.
- A blood-related (to the female partner) donor can be an excellent choice if the potential donor is not pressured into the treatment. Also, consider what would happen to the family relationships if the treatment was unsuccessful. The feeling of guilt of "letting you down" by the egg donor may be profound.
- Your donor does not have to live locally. Minimizing the number of your donor's visits to Bay IVF is possible. She would need to come for a two-day visit before the beginning of the Donor Egg IVF cycle and stay for about a week during the treatment.

Positive Indicators When Searching for a Qualified Egg Donor

- Younger than 36 years of age
- History of at least one pregnancy within the last five years
- History of regular menstrual periods
- No history of infertility

Negative Indicators When Searching for a Qualified Egg Donor

- Positive family history of inheritable psychiatric disorder
- Substance abuse or two or more first-degree relatives with substance dependence
- Current use of psychotropic medications
- Family history of sexual or physical abuse without professional treatment for the donor
- Chaotic lifestyle
- Significant current stress
- Marital relationship instability
- History of legal difficulties
- High-risk sexual practices
- Under the age of 21
- Desperate financial situation
- Objection to Donor Egg IVF by the partner of a potential donor

General Questions to Ask Potential Egg Donors

- Why do you want to participate in Donor Egg IVF?
- Why did you choose to be a known donor?
- What are your feelings about being available in the future for the baby?
- What are your expectations about how a child born from this treatment should be raised?
- Does it matter if the prospective parents are not married?

- Does it matter if I (as the recipient) am single or a lesbian?
- How do you think you would feel if the procedure did not succeed?
- Are you aware that excess eggs may be fertilized and frozen as embryos?
- Do you expect any legal relationship with the baby?
- What are your expectations, if any, around receiving a fee for your participation?
- Are you willing to participate again if we desire siblings for our child or if pregnancy did not result from the first attempt?
- How do you feel about our decision to give embryos to another couple or make them available for scientific research?
- Do you have any children of your own? How many do you have, and what are their ages?
- Are you willing to participate in a counseling session?
- Do you know you must sign a legal agreement detailing your willingness to give up all parental claims and responsibilities?
- Do you have health insurance in the unlikely event of post-treatment complications?
- If you have a partner, how does he feel about your interest in donating eggs?
- Do you understand the medical procedure needed to stimulate your ovaries and retrieve eggs?
- Who will be your support person during the treatment? Who will give you your injections?
- Are you aware that we may have a twin pregnancy? How do you feel about this possibility?
- Are there people with whom you have shared your interest in being an egg donor? If so, what were their reactions?
- Why do you think you would be a suitable egg donor?
- What do you believe your strengths and weaknesses are?
- Do you have any ethical or religious viewpoints which might affect your decision to be an egg donor?
- Where did you learn about this opportunity?
- How do you feel about the possibility that embryos may be frozen for a long time, perhaps for years?
- What are your feelings about selective termination or selective reduction?

Specific Questions When the Donor Is a Relative or Close Friend

- It is presumed that any donor who is a relative or close friend will have an ongoing or intimate relationship with the future parents. Consequently, the questions do not need to be as expansive as with a recruited donor.
- Is there anything significant about your relationship with your relative that contributed to your decision to donate eggs?
- What are your concerns associated with donating eggs to a relative?
- How do you imagine your relationship will change by donating eggs?
- How does your family feel about your decision to donate eggs to a relative?
- Who will know about this decision, and who will not?
- If you have decided to keep this private, how do you expect to handle an unplanned disclosure?

- If you have a partner, how does he feel about the possibility of a baby born through Donor Egg IVF? Will he participate in counseling if requested?
- Have you discussed the risks associated with this procedure with your partner?

Specific Questions for a Donor Who Is Willing To Meet With the Recipient Patient

- Does your family have a predisposition to particular illnesses, i.e., allergies, intestinal problems, cancer, heart disease, or psychological problems? Who had one or more of these diseases, and at what age did the onset occur?
- Are your blood relatives living, i.e., parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, and uncles? If not, how old were they when they died, and what was the cause of death?
- Have you or any immediate family members ever smoked, drank, or used illegal substances? To what extent?
- Have you ever been pregnant? What was the outcome?
- Have you ever donated eggs before? If so, how many follicles developed? How many eggs were retrieved? How many successfully fertilized? Was there a resulting pregnancy, multiple pregnancy?
- What can you tell us about your family? Who are they, and what are their ages? What are their vocational and avocational interests, hobbies, talents, and dispositions? What are their physical characteristics, such as skin tone, weight, and height?
- Do you have any children? If yes, how old are they now? When did they learn to walk and talk? Have there been any significant health issues we should know about? What are their unique abilities and interests? What was their birth weight and length?
- If you do not have children, why do you want to help us have a baby using your eggs? Have you considered the unlikely circumstance where you might be unable to conceive in the future?
- What is your family's genealogical heritage or history? What country(s) did your ancestors come from, where did they settle, and when?
- Why do you want to be a donor? If you have already donated, how was that experience?
- If we get pregnant, will you tell your family members, including your children? If so, how will you let them know, and when? For example, would you want your children to know that our child would share half of their genetic heritage? How will you handle their questions?
- May we see or have pictures of your family, siblings, and children? If we desire, may we meet with your immediate family, including your children?
- Have you thought about how you would feel if we did not get pregnant after all this interaction and sharing?
- Have you considered whether you would like ongoing contact such as pictures, phone calls, or meeting the child?
- Is your job or school situation flexible enough to do this procedure? If you have children, do you have childcare available?