



Thank you so much for your interest in becoming an egg donor at Genesis Fertility! Because of problems like premature menopause, ovarian disease, or age, many women depend on using donated eggs in order to start or complete their families. The generous donation that women like you provide has given thousands of women the one thing they desire most, the chance to have a baby.

We understand that egg donation is a big decision and not one to be taken lightly. The goal of this packet is to give you all of the information that you need to make an informed decision of whether egg donation is right for you.

Egg Donation Regulation and Screening

The process of egg donation is regulated by several different agencies. The American Society of Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) provides guidance and best practices to physicians who manage egg donation cycles. In addition, studies looking at various treatment regimens and ways to minimize complications are published monthly in the organizations professional journal, Fertility and Sterility.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) both play a large role in dictating how we screen our egg donors and who we can accept into the program. In fact, we are subject to random inspections by both departments in order to ensure compliance with these very important regulations. Because of this, we have very detailed screening protocols that must be completed before any donor is accepted into the program:

- **Medical screening** procedures will assess your general health status. The procedures involve a physical exam and a gynecological exam by a Genesis physician. Blood samples and cervical cultures are tested for communicable and sexually transmitted diseases. Our goal is to determine that you are physically able to undergo the donation procedures. The infectious disease testing will be repeated later in the donation process as required by the FDA. Appointments for the exam and testing are available throughout the week during our office hours.
- **Drug screening** is performed as part of the application process to test for substance abuse.

Upon successful completion of each of these initial procedures, a donor can be matched to a Recipient(s). Once matched, the next stage of the donation screening process will begin.

- **Psychological screening** and counseling ensures that you understand the emotional and psychological aspects of the donation procedure. Appointments are scheduled for Mondays or Tuesdays.
- **Genetic Screening** will identify whether you are a carrier of genetically transmitted diseases such as cystic fibrosis, fragile X, Tay Sachs and sickle cell anemia.

How Does a Donor Egg Cycle Work?

Once you are matched with a recipient, your donor coordinator will send relevant information about your menstrual cycle (date of last period, whether you are on birth control pills, how long your cycles are), and your recipient's information to the physician, who will formulate a medication regimen. The goal is to coordinate both of your cycles so that you get your periods around the same time.

As an egg donor, you will take fertility medications to stimulate your ovaries to produce multiple eggs. These medications are administered as injections, using a very small needle, into the abdomen or thigh. Don't worry though, you will be thoroughly trained in how to administer these medications, and most women report very little if any discomfort from the injections.

Close monitoring of your response to these medications is necessary to minimize the risk of serious side effects from the medications. When the eggs are mature, an egg retrieval is performed to collect the eggs. The retrieval is a minor procedure that takes about 15 minutes and is performed while you are sleeping. You will be able to return to work the next day, provided that you are feeling well.

This marks the end of your participation as an egg donor. The eggs that you donate are later fertilized in the laboratory, and a few of the resulting embryos are then transferred into the recipient's uterus. If embryos of good quality remain after the transfer, the couple may decide to freeze them for future use.

Side Effects and Risks Involved

The daily blood sampling and hormone injections are generally well tolerated. However, some women experience discomfort, redness, small bruises or rarely, infection at the injection sites. Treatment side effects from the FSH medication may include breast tenderness, fluid retention, a bloated feeling, moodiness and tenderness in your ovaries.

There may be an increase in the size of the ovaries; less common side effects include vessels or torsion (twisting) of the ovaries. Genesis physicians will routinely regulate your medications to minimize discomfort and side effects, but in some cases this cannot be avoided.

There are rare risks with the egg retrieval procedure such as infections and injury to the bowel, blood vessels, or other structures. Such an injury might necessitate open abdominal surgery with a hospital stay to control bleeding or to repair or remove the ovary, but this is **very** uncommon.

Psychological Support

Egg donors feel a great deal of personal satisfaction in giving infertile families the opportunity to achieve a pregnancy. It is common, however, to feel some ambivalence or uncertainty regarding your decision or anxiety about the medical procedures and the results of your testing. A mental health professional is available at Genesis throughout the entire process to offer emotional support and counseling.

In addition, the IVF nursing team or your donor coordinator will be calling you very frequently to give you instructions during your cycle. They are very happy to answer any clinical questions that arise or discuss any concerns that you have.

Compensation

We realize that egg donation is a commitment that requires a significant contribution of your time. We are willing to compensate you for the inconvenience that you experience. Compensation is currently \$8,000.00 for a completed egg donation cycle. The compensation is tax deductible, so you will receive IRS form 1099 at the end of the year. You may donate eggs more than once; however, you must wait two months between each donation cycle.

Next Steps

After you have read the above information, please fill out the enclosed application and send it and all of the requested documentation back to Genesis:

Nicole Galan
1355 84th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11228
718-283-6580
ngalan@genesisfertility.com

Once we receive your application, it will be reviewed by our medical team and you will be contacted, either by phone or mail, with our decision.

And again, thank you for your interest in becoming an egg donor!

--The Staff at Genesis Fertility