

Clinic Donors vs Known Donors

You'll have the option of choosing between clinic donors from our carefully curated database or using a known individual. Both options provide flexibility, safety, and control over your treatment path, allowing you to make the choice that feels most comfortable for your unique circumstances.

When seeking to conceive through donor sperm, you have the option of selecting a de-identified, sperm donor from our curated database, or alternatively, you may choose to use sperm donated by someone known to you. This may be an acquaintance, close friend, or a family member. Whether you decide to use a clinic-recruited donor or a known donor, our team will ensure you are fully-informed about any implications and special considerations that come with either choice.

Clinic recruited donor

A clinic-recruited donor is someone who has voluntarily donated their sperm through a regulated fertility clinic, such as Genea. These profiles are de-identified, meaning you won't see their name or any other identifying details. However, any donor-conceived children have a legal right to know the identity of the donor when they turn 16 or 18 years of age, depending on the state.

There are a number of benefits of using an clinic donor compared to a known donor.

1. Comprehensive screening

All sperm donors accessed through Genea are thoroughly screened and assessed by a fertility specialist, genetic counsellor, fertility counsellor and donor coordinator to minimise any risks to the person intending to carry the pregnancy and also to any children conceived. This rigorous process includes:

- Taking a comprehensive personal and family medical history
- Screening for infections such as sexually transmissible infections including HIV, chlamydia and others, and other infectious conditions such as cytomegalovirus
- Screening for inheritable conditions such as cystic fibrosis, fragile X syndrome, spinal muscular atrophy, and thrombophilias
- Semen analysis

Once a sperm sample has been provided, this is quarantined for three months before undergoing another round of screening tests. Only after passing this step do we release the sperm for use.

2. Regulated record-keeping

Accessing a sperm donor through our database allows us to ensure all important data is properly recorded and retained. This allows us to adhere to the state legislation surrounding donor sperm, including the monitoring of family limits and providing access to accurate donor-identifying information when any donor-conceived children turn 16 or 18 years old, depending on the state.

3. Clear understanding of legal boundaries

A clinic-recruited donor has undergone at least two mandatory counselling sessions before providing a sperm sample. These sessions involve discussing the social and legal implications of becoming a sperm donor, including expectations and obligations towards children conceived through their donor sperm.



Known sperm donor

A known sperm donor is someone who has voluntarily offered to donate their sperm to help grow your family. This person can be anyone - a colleague, a friend, or a family member. However, it is important to note that the donor cannot be related to the partner providing the egg.

Deciding to use a known sperm donor requires particular consideration as your chosen donor is unlikely to have been as thoroughly vetted compared to a clinic-recruited donor for transmissible infections, genetic conditions, or other health-related factors that may impact your pregnancy or the wellbeing of any donor-conceived children.

The legal obligations of a known donor are the same as that of an clinic-recruited one - they have limited legal rights over children conceived through their sperm, and there are no expectations of them to provide child-raising or financial support in any form.

Despite these additional considerations, using a known donor can feel like the right choice for a few reasons.

1. More personal information available

Depending on how close you are to the donor, you will have a better idea of certain personality traits that aren't captured in a typical donor profile, such as their sense of humour, work ethic, and how they approach their relationships.

2. A closer biological connection

Using donor sperm from a family member can be significantly appealing for many couples. For example, a heterosexual couple may use an egg from the female partner and donor sperm from the male partner's brother. This means that the child still shares genetic material from both parents and can help both partners in bonding with a donor-conceived child.

Practical Considerations for Donor Selection

Donor Availability & Timing:

- With clinic-recruited donors, you will receive immediate access to our donor database with no wait time.
- Specific criteria may require waiting for ideal match.
- New donors added bi-weekly; coordinators notify when matches available.
- Known donors need three month quarantine before treatment.

Multiple Cycles:

- Stock managed to ensure availability for future cycles/siblings from same donor.
- If your clinic recruited donor is from an international bank, and you're considering current and future family planning, your Specialist will recommend the purchase of multiple vials.

Geographic Considerations:

- May need interstate travel for preferred donor (state family limits).
- Not all donor sperm is suitable for all treatment types.



[Click here to connect with our Fertility Concierge and explore your donor sperm options.](#)