

1. Donor egg bank – Is this new?

Although sperm banks have been around for many years, it is only recently that egg banks have become an option for patients. Since eggs are more fragile than sperm, it has taken longer to achieve acceptable fertilization outcomes using thawed eggs. In the last decade, advances in vitrification have led to better outcomes and the establishment of donor egg banks for intended parents who need egg donation.

The MUHC Reproductive Centre now offers patients access to American egg banks through a Canadian distributor. With this service, couples no longer have to search or wait for an egg donor.

2. Where to begin?

If your physician has recommended egg donation treatment, please refer to our *Egg Donation booklet* and information sheet titled *Baseline investigations for donor egg recipient and her partner*.

If you are unable to find your own donor and wish to use an egg donor bank, please call 514-843-1650 to schedule a counseling session with our reproductive health psychologist.

3. Is the cost of egg donation treatment covered by the Quebec Health Insurance Plan (RAMQ)?

Neither the donor eggs from a bank nor the IVF treatment using donor eggs are covered by RAMQ.

See our online fee schedule for the cost of an oocyte (egg) replacement cycle using egg donation treatment
muhc.ca/reproductivecentre

Please note that the treatment fee does not include the cost of using donor eggs. The egg bank is independent from our service, sets its own prices and fees for frozen eggs are paid directly to them.

4. Where can I order donor eggs?

To ensure the highest standards of safety and quality, the MUHC Reproductive Centre is working exclusively with *CAN-AM Cryoservices*, a Health Canada approved distributor, to launch its new Donor Egg Bank program.


CAN-AM Cryoservices is a Canadian distributor for two U.S.-based egg banks: Fairfax and NWCryo.

CAN-AM Cryoservices
Donor Egg and Sperm Bank
Tel: 1-888-245-3471; Montreal: 514-439-5907
info@canamcryo.com
www.canamcryo.com

5. How much do the services of a donor egg bank cost?

For information regarding the cost of frozen donor eggs, see the fee schedule on the *CAN-AM Cryoservices* website.

6. Who orders the eggs?

 Patients are responsible for all aspects of the ordering process; including selecting, ordering, and purchasing. Transportation is arranged by *CAN-AM Cryo* and fees are paid to them.

For more information about placing an order, visit the *CAN-AM* website.

Although orders can be processed easily online, *CAN-AM Cryo services* offers phone or face-to-face consultations in Montreal, in French and English, to facilitate the selection of an egg donor. If you are interested in a consultation, please contact *CAN-AM* directly to book an appointment.

7. What am I responsible for when ordering donor eggs?

Patients are responsible for selecting the donor with special attention to:

<u>Ethnicity</u>	<u>Blood Group*</u>	<u>Physical Traits</u>	<u>Donor Type</u>
- Asian	- A,B, AB, O	- Height	- Anonymous
- Caucasian	- Rh factor	- Weight	- Open ID
- African		- Hair	
etc.		- Eye color	

⇒ * You can ask the nurse or physician for your blood group result.

8. What is the difference between an open identity donor and an anonymous donor?

An *open identity donor* allows the offspring of a donor to receive the donor's name and last-known contact information from the egg bank once they reach the age of 18.

Donor-conceived children are free to decide whether they want to receive this information about the donor, and whether or not to follow up on it. Information about the client using the donor eggs, or about the resulting offspring, is never revealed to the donor.

An *anonymous donor* means that the donor is not willing to reveal her name to offspring and whose identity is protected by the bank. No access to identification is allowed.

9. When should I place my order?

First, you must complete all the required tests, consult with our reproductive health psychologist and receive an order from your physician for treatment using egg donation. This order will be given once all your results are in and discussed with you.

Your order should be placed at least 3 weeks before the start of your treatment



A treatment cycle may be cancelled if the donor eggs are not received on time.

10. Will the Centre call when my eggs arrive?

No. You are responsible for confirming that the eggs have arrived at our Centre. You will need to contact the Embryology Lab at 514-934-1934 ext. 36825, one week before the scheduled treatment.

11. Where should the egg bank ship the donor eggs?

MUHC Reproductive Centre
888 Blvd. de Maisonneuve East
Suite 200
Montreal, QC H2L 4S8

12. Will I be required to pay for storage?

Yes, storage fees will apply if after one year the frozen eggs have not been used.

13. Liability and Responsibility

The MUHC Reproductive Centre is in no way responsible for the quality or characteristics of the specimen. There is always a chance that some or all of the frozen eggs will not survive the thaw, not fertilize or become embryos.

Report your Pregnancy/Birth

Each bank maintains its own register of pregnancies and/or births to track donor fertility and limit the number of offspring per donor. It also makes it easier to contact you in case of an important update in the donor's medical information. Please be sure to contact the donor bank to report a pregnancy or birth.