

**Choosing and reserving donor sperm samples for use in treatment at  
The Lister Fertility Clinic**

**CMV (Cytomegalovirus)**

Before you start looking for suitable donor sperm samples you must have your blood taken and tested for CMV (cytomegalovirus) IgG and IgM. This can be done at the Lister 9-3pm Monday to Friday (result takes 3-4 days) or your GP may be able to do it for you.

CMV (Cytomegalovirus) is a common virus that over 80% of people will contract at some point during their lifetime. The initial symptoms are usually characterised by cold or flu-like symptoms so many people are unaware that they have actually been infected with CMV. CMV infection has little or no impact for a healthy individual but it can have consequences if a CMV negative woman (someone who has not had CMV) contracts this virus in the early stages of pregnancy as it may have implications for the health of the developing foetus.

Donors that are described as CMV positive have tested positive for CMV IgG which indicates that they have contracted CMV at some point. They have screened negative for CMV IgM which indicates they do not have current CMV infection.

If you are CMV NEGATIVE for both IgG and IgM you should select a CMV NEGATIVE donor. In a small number of cases it may not be possible to find a suitable CMV negative donor, in these cases you must contact your Lister consultant for further advise.

If you are CMV POSTIVE for IgG and negative for IgM then you can choose a CMV POSITIVE or a CMV NEGATIVE donor.

**Blood Group**

There is generally no clinical need to choose a donor of a particular blood group (unless the recipient is known to have a rare Rh negative blood group). Some patients may wish to try and choose a specific blood group but keep in mind that if you choose to use the blood type of a donor as one of your selection criteria, you may decrease the number of donor choices available to you

It is also important to remember that children do not always inherit the same blood type as their biological parents. For example, a male and female couple with blood types A and B could biologically have offspring with any of the four blood types: A, B, O, or AB.

If you wish to know your blood group, then testing can be done at the Lister 9-3pm Monday to Friday (results take 3-4 days) or your GP may be able to do it for you.

**Sourcing Donor sperm samples**

You **must** organise to have your sperm samples **reserved in storage for your use at the Lister Fertility Clinic before you start your treatment cycle for IUI, IVF or ICSI**. Please note that when you place your order it can take several weeks for the relevant documentation to be completed and the sperm delivered to the Lister. **When the sperm has arrived at the Lister you will receive a call from one of the Embryologists and you can then contact the Nurses to start your treatment cycle.**

**UK based Donor Bank**

The Lister Fertility Clinic has an agreement in place to accept samples from the London Sperm Bank ([www.londonspermbank.com](http://www.londonspermbank.com)) or Semovo ( [www.buysperm.co.uk](http://www.buysperm.co.uk) ) and place an order with them directly.

You may be able to source donor sperm from elsewhere in the UK and if you are able to do this then we may accept the samples as long as the donor bank is licensed by the HFEA.

### **Sourcing donor sperm abroad**

As an alternative to UK-sourced donor sperm the majority of patients have been choosing to source donor sperm samples from abroad and import them into the UK. There are two donor banks that the Lister Fertility Clinic work with currently, Xytex and European Sperm Bank. The Lister only work with these two donor banks and are not able to accept samples from any other non-UK donor banks.

Both of the companies are established donor banks and they do make extra charges for access to some areas of their websites giving extra information on individual donors.

All samples are ordered directly with the donor bank and then the donor bank will contact us and arrange shipment. Once the samples are received at the Lister they will be stored for you under your unique identification code.

If you wish to locate donor sperm samples through this route then you **MUST** select an **ID –Disclosure donor (Xytex) or Open donor (ESB) and check the CMV status as explained earlier.** This means that the donor bank provides us with the information required to register the donor with the HFEA so that the donor’s details are on the record for any child born as a result of his donation to possibly access when the child is at least 18 years old. Each donor can achieve a maximum of ten families in the UK so not all the listed ID-disclosure/ open donors may be available for import into the UK.

Usually one vial is used per treatment cycle, most patients choose to import 2-6 vials but this is ultimately dependant on how many treatment cycles you might be prepared to undergo. **Usually one vial is used per treatment cycle, occasionally the sperm in one vial does not survive the freezing process well and it may be necessary to thaw a second vial or to perform ICSI instead of IVF.** You may also wish to consider that you may want to import extra vials to attempt for a sibling pregnancy; you should contact the donor bank directly to discuss possible future availability of any individual donor.

If you are a same-sex couple both wishing to have treatment with the same donor, please discuss this with the Donor Bank prior to your order.

Please be aware that there is no refund or buy-back option available for unused samples.

### **Xytex donor bank USA, [www.xytex.com](http://www.xytex.com)**

The CMV status of all the donors is clearly shown on the xytex website.

Four types of vials (units) are available, Unwashed, Prewashed, ART and ICSI. Not all donors have all types of vials available but different types of vials can be suitable for several types of treatment, as follows:-

<b>IUI-suitable Sperm samples</b>	<b>IVF-suitable Sperm samples</b>	<b>ICSI-suitable Sperm samples</b>
Unwashed ID Disclosure units	Unwashed ID Disclosure units	Unwashed ID Disclosure units
Prewashed ID Disclosure units	Prewashed ID Disclosure units	Prewashed ID Disclosure units
	ART ID Disclosure units	ART ID Disclosure units
		ICSI ID Disclosure units

As the Lister IVF Laboratory will routinely prepare and wash all sperm samples on the day of treatment at no extra charge, therefore if unwashed and prewashed vials are available, the unwashed vials are usually the more cost effective type to purchase.

If you wish to order from Xytex please call using the contact numbers on the website. Prices are on the website but should be confirmed with the donor bank directly. The total cost may include the cost of the vials and the cost of shipping and any other relevant charges.

***Please note delivery of donor sperm to the Lister will only take place on Wednesdays. This means Xytex will only send shipments out on a Monday.***

**European Sperm Bank** <https://clinics.europeanspermbank.com/Lister>

The CMV status of the donors is not displayed on the website – ESB need to be contacted and asked to supply a full list of the CMV status of their current donors before any donor selection is undertaken.

The European sperm bank is based in Denmark and the ordering procedure is similar to that of Xytex.

<b>IUI-suitable Sperm samples</b>	<b>IVF-suitable Sperm samples</b>	<b>ICSI-suitable Sperm samples</b>
ICI Open donor unit	ICI Open donor unit	ICI Open donor unit
IUI Open donor unit	IUI Open donor unit	IUI Open donor unit

As the Lister IVF Laboratory will routinely prepare and wash all sperm samples on the day of treatment at no extra charge, then if ICI and IUI vials are available, the ICI vials are usually the more cost effective type to purchase.

If you wish to order samples from the ESB then the contact there is called Katja who can be emailed on [katja@europeanspermbank.com](mailto:katja@europeanspermbank.com)

Prices are on the website but should be confirmed with the donor bank directly. The total cost may include the cost of the vials, the cost of shipping and ESB also make a charge for a UK pregnancy slot. Each donor can achieve a maximum of ten families in the UK and this is part of their tracking system for ensuring that this is not exceeded.

***Please note delivery of donor sperm to the Lister will only take place on Wednesdays. This means ESB will only send shipments out on a Tuesday.***

### **Extra Costs**

Please note that there is a Lister admin charge and an annual storage fee payable if you decide to import samples from Xytex or the European sperm bank (Please refer to the current price list).

### **Lister Contact Information**

If you need any further information or advice, it is often best to contact the donor bank directly for specific donor information as the Lister do not have any extra access to their services. However, if you need further general support and advice, please contact the Embryology Laboratory on 0207 881 4041 or [lab1@lfclinic.com](mailto:lab1@lfclinic.com).

PLEASE NOTE:

IF YOU HAVE MORE THEN ONE DONOR STORED AT THE LISTER FERTILITY CLINIC, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU MAKE IT CLEAR WHICH DONOR YOU INTEND TO USE AT THE START OF EACH CYCLE.