Phase 2 – Node coding report UK data (May 2018)

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| Name | Sources | References | Description and/or related research questions | Examples |
| Altruism | 6 | 8 | Descriptions/labelling of egg donors as altruistic; clinics using the language of altruism | The Search for an Egg Donor: At [clinic name] we empower women with a large choice of UK recruited egg donors - donors who are smart, altruistic and from a variety of different backgrounds.  BECOMING AN EGG DONOR WAS AN EASY CHOICE FOR ME. I HAD BEEN BLESSED WITH THREE WONDERFUL CHILDREN AND I WANTED TO HELP OTHERS LESS FORTUNATE EXPERIENCE SOMETHING MANY OF US TAKE FOR GRANTED. I FOUND THE PROCESS TO NOT ONLY BE EASY AND STRAIGHTFORWARD, BUT ALSO ONE OF THE MOST REWARDING THINGS I HAVE EVER DONE. |
| Anonymous donation | 10 | 15 | How anonymity (or rather lack thereof in the UK) is presented; in terms of being anonymous at the point of donation and in relation to the recipients whilst being identifiable by law to any future children once they turn 18 | Unknown donation – the [clinic name] has an egg donor programme using both altruistic donors and egg-sharers. Although it is called ‘unknown donation’ it is no longer anonymous since a change in the law in 2005. This means that children born as a result of egg or sperm donation in the UK have the right to access identifiable information about their donor once they reach the age of 18.  Anonymity. In contrast to the UK, in the Czech Republic donation is completely anonymous and your child will not have access to the identity of the donor at any point.  Your donation is anonymous – you will never meet the women you are donating to. |
| Benefits of egg donation | 6 | 16 | Gains for the egg provider; emotional benefits [financial benefits are coded separately] | Becoming a donor can be a very rewarding experience and it is one of the most generous gifts you can give.  Many donors feel a sense of pride, knowing the joy they have brought to people who could not otherwise become parents. |
| Compensation | 12 | 30 | Framing the monetary exchange as compensation [often overlaps with language of payment – which is coded separately]; framing free or reduced cost IVF as a form of compensation | As an egg donor, you will receive £750 for each donation cycle, which is intended to compensate you for your time and expenses whilst donating your eggs to us.  We will arrange a payment once your donation has been made.  Do I get paid for being an egg donor?  If you are eligible to become an egg donor and are donating to an anonymous recipient you will receive compensation of £750 to cover any expenses incurred. Alternatively if you need IVF treatment yourself, or know a friend or relative who needs IVF, then compensation can be given in the form of an IVF treatment package free of charge at one of the [clinic name] instead. |
| Consent | 7 | 12 | All information that mentions consent; what do clinics say donors are consenting to? | It is a legal requirement for anyone donating eggs to give written consent for the use of their eggs in treatment. You can change or withdraw your consent at any me up until when the eggs are actually used for treatment.  What happens if I change my mind? Egg providers retain the right to withdraw consent to the use of the eggs or resultant embryos, or to alter the terms at any me up to the point that embryos created with their eggs are used in treatment (ie, when they are transferred into the recipient’s womb). If you withdraw consent, you will be required to pay the full cost of all services, screening and treatment provided to date. If you decide, before or during the treatment cycle, that you wish to withdraw from the programme, there will be no refund of any egg share payments you have already made. If you decide, before or during the treatment cycle, that you wish to retain all the eggs produced in that cycle for your own use, you can do so but you will be required to pay the full cost for all services, screening and treatment provided to date. |
| Costs | 1 | 1 | Mentions of the cost of treatment | Costs £1500 for IVF. £1700 for ICSI. These costs include drugs and are non-refundable. |
| Counselling | 14 | 30 | All references to counselling coded here  [requires further unpacking] | If you are accepted on to the egg share programme you will then need to see our Counsellor. This allows you to discuss any concerns you have about egg sharing such as the implications for you and your family. It is essential that everyone who is considering egg sharing has counselling with their partner.  Support and counselling. Choosing to donate your eggs is a personal, and important, decision. So, after you’ve talked through the process with our donation team we’ll also invite you to meet one of our experienced counsellors. They’ll talk to you about the ethical implications of egg donation and listen to any thoughts or worries you might have. |
| Cross over donation | 1 | 1 | All mentions of this type of donation arrangement | Can I donate to someone I know?  If you have a relative or friend who needs donor eggs, it may be possible for you to donate to them at one of our clinics. It may be that you want to help but you don’t want to donate your eggs directly to someone you know. In these instances you can donate to an anonymous recipient who needs donor eggs and as a thank you your friend/relative would be matched to the next available egg donor, reducing the time they have to wait. |
| Donating surplus eggs | 4 | 5 | Framing eggs as surplus, excess; something that would otherwise be discarded | Becoming an egg donor doesn't have any impact on your future ability to have children. Each month a group of eggs begin the maturation process, but the body only selects one to ovulate. Fertility medications "rescue" some of the excess eggs that the body would have ordinarily discarded.  At the [clinic name], we offer an egg sharing programme which can provide an affordable solution for those women needing IVF or ICSI who are willing, as part of their treatment, to donate some of their surplus eggs to another woman to help her become a mother. |
| Donation as a voluntary act | 5 | 7 | Framing egg donation as a voluntary act; as a choice – overlaps with withdrawal of consent | Egg donation is a voluntary service that can offer a solution to women who want to have children but can't.  Having these appointments does not mean you are obliged to become an egg-sharer.  Withdrawal of consent - It is important that donors only proceed if they are completely happy with the procedure and the possible consequences. Our counsellor is available to discuss any concerns and any such discussions are completely confidential. However, donors are free to withdraw consent at any time up until their eggs, or the embryos created using their eggs, are used in treatment (transferred into the womb of the recipient). If eggs or embryos have been frozen for future use, the donor may withdraw her consent to storage and future use at any time. |
| Donation as GIVING | 13 | 27 | Framing of egg donation through the language of giving; giving a gift, giving hope; giving a chance to have a child/ create a family | If you are considering sharing your eggs to give another person or couple the chance to have a child, it is essential that you fully understand what will be involved and also that you have the opportunity to consider any implications for the future.  Would you like to give an incredible gift? We have many patients who need donor eggs if they are to create a family. Egg donation gives hope to women who previously thought they would be unable to have children  Becoming an egg donor can offer hope to a large number of women who previously thought they'd never have children |
| Donation as HELPING others | 13 | 47 | Framing donation as ‘helping others’; changing others lives | Do you need IVF? Do you want to help other women with infertility? If you’re aged between 18 and 35, a non-smoker and in good health, you may be able to join our egg-sharing programme.  If you are eligible you could do something amazing and make a real difference to someone’s life.  Donating your eggs could help another woman have a precious child of her own. Egg donation is an opportunity to give someone the chance of becoming a parent, and if you’re the kind of person who likes to help others it can be a truly rewarding experience. To thank you for your time and kindness, we’ll compensate you with £750 for each donation cycle. |
| Donation to help with costs of fertility treatment | 7 | 23 | Egg sharing – motivations to share to help with cost of fertility treatment | Could egg sharing be for me? Egg sharing is an option for anyone looking to reduce the costs of IVF, as well as for those who’d like to be able to help other couples struggling to start their families.  We also run an egg sharing programme where you can share your eggs with women who need them in exchange for your own free IVF treatment.  What is egg sharing? Egg sharing is a way of becoming an egg donor that enables you to access IVF treatment at a greatly reduced cost.  This system of treatment can potentially benefit two sets of patients: the sharers because they receive the treatment they need at reduced cost, and recipients because they receive eggs to use for their treatment. |
| Egg bank | 4 | 8 | Any mention of egg banks | If you opt to have treatment using donor eggs from our vitrified egg bank there will be no need for synchronisation and you will be able to start your treatment even sooner.  Egg donation may be by a known donor, such as a friend or a family member, or anonymously by someone wishing to donate eggs. Sadly we do not have a bank of donors but will advise and assist with recruitment of someone who may be able to help. |
| Egg collection | 10 | 18 | Descriptions of the egg collection/retrieval process | Retrieval of Eggs, The trans-vaginal egg collection is usually conducted under sedation using ultrasound guidance. You will recover in the comfort of your own dedicated room at [clinic name] until you are able to go home. You may require simple analgesia such as paracetamol or ibuprofen for the first 24 hours after the procedure. |
| Egg donation as treatment | 9 | 13 | Framing of egg donation as ‘treatment’ – medicalisation of donation? | What does treatment involve? The treatment is similar to IVF except it ends when the eggs are collected. Your donated eggs are then fertilised using either the sperm of the recipient’s partner or with donor sperm and the resulting embryos are transferred to the recipient’s womb. |
| Egg donor register | 6 | 13 | Reference to the national donor register | Where will the information about me be stored?  The details about you will be stored at the [clinic name]. In addition to this, we will also register you as an egg donor with the HFEA (Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority) and the information will be stored in their offices in London. The HFEA licence and regulate UK fertility clinics. |
| Egg/ embryo freezing | 7 | 8 | Mentions of egg/embryo freezing | Will my eggs be frozen?  No, at present our best success rates are with fresh eggs. We want to give women the best chances possible so we would use them for treatment straight away  You will be asked to complete consent forms for the use of your eggs for your own treatment, and for treating another person, as well as freezing and storing any embryos created using your eggs. |
| Egg recipients stories | 1 | 2 | Use of egg recipients stories – How are these used by clinics? what role do they play in framing egg donation/ donors? | "So, armed with all the baby clothes and equipment, we decided in time to find an egg donor. If we could find another woman who would help us, we could still have our dreams come true. Having carried a child, I had all the maternal longings. A child is such a precious gift, as I'm sure most people are aware. Those of us who cannot have children without help know it all the more. Women who have lost a child know that they have lost the most precious gift on earth. "I have met other women who also never expected their infertility. One lady I know started menopause in her twenties and another has no ovaries due to a car accident in her teens (though they saved her uterus). I believe that there are kind women out there who would help us if they knew how much their help is needed." - Anonymous |
| Egg sharing | 10 | 51 | All data relating to egg sharing [needs unpacking] | Egg-sharing is when you have IVF and donate some of your eggs – usually half of the eggs collected - as part of your treatment cycle, to help other infertile women to conceive. But you don’t receive the £750 compensation for egg donation to cover time and expenses. Instead, as you’re having IVF and attending our clinic anyway, your private IVF cycle with us is offered at a reduced rate of £1,000. Egg-sharing has proven to be a very successful scheme at [clinic name], helping women who need donor eggs and those who need IVF to successfully conceive. |
| Family limit | 4 | 4 | All mentions of the family limit [overlaps with the number of times someone can donate] | How many children could be born?  Current British law allows a maximum of 10 families to be created from one donor. With egg donation, each donation cycle helps 1 – 2 women. |
| Freeze and Share | 1 | 3 | All mentions of this type of donation | If you’re not ready for IVF yet but still want to egg-share, you can opt for our egg-sharing and freezing cycle instead. |
| Future implications | 2 | 5 | What future implications of egg donation are mentioned? To what extent are ‘futures’ a part of the cultural construction of egg donation in the UK context of identifiable donation? | It is a condition of egg sharing treatment at the [clinic name] that egg providers receive independent counselling from a specialist infertility counsellor to discuss all aspects of their treatment. There will be an opportunity to discuss the implications of being an egg provider, including the possibility of: • An egg recipient becoming pregnant while the donor does not • Half-siblings of a similar age being conceived • Being contacted by a donor-conceived child in the future |
| Genetic links | 2 | 4 | How are genetic links between donors and future children presented? What function does this serve in the context of donor recruitment material? | In a legal and social sense, the people who receive your donation will be the parents of any child that is born. However, the child will inherit your genes and therefore they, and any children of theirs, will be genetically related to you. You should consider how you feel about this now and try to imagine how you may feel in the future. |
| Gift of giving donation | 1 | 5 | All mentions of this type of donation arrangement | Donors can make a gift of free IVF This innovative programme allows people to donate their eggs or sperm and in return, nominate a friend or family member to receive a free standard cycle of IVF. |
| Number of times someone can donate | 2 | 3 | To what extent is the idea of multiple donation cycles embedded in clinic recruitment materials? | How many times can I donate?  We recommend that you only donate for a maximum of three cycles.  The law states that there donation should result in the creation of no more than ten families.  There is a limited number of 10 families created by each donor as a result of donation. We will check the family slots available for each donor before matching you with one. |
| Identifiability of donors | 12 | 24 | How legal information about donor identifiability is presented; How anonymity and identifiability are demarcated | Only non-identifying information will be given to the recipients you are matched to. This includes a physical description, ethnic group, details of the screening tests and medical history. Other information that can also be given includes your occupation, interests and skills as well as a good will message and a pen portrait (description of yourself as a person). Anyone born from your donated eggs will be able to request non-identifying information once they reach age 16.At aged 18 or over they can then choose to find out who you are. They can request your identifying information (full name, date of birth and address). Only the child themselves can request identifying information, not their parents.  Will my donation be anonymous? Yes, neither egg sharer nor egg recipient will meet. However, information about the sharer will be held at the central register with the Human Fertilisation and Embryo Authority (HFEA). At the age of 18 a person born as a result of sperm, egg or embryo donation will have access to identifying information about their donor. This will not apply to donation treatment received before 1 April 2005. |
| Images - other | 1 | 1 | Other images | Balloons; hearts |
| Images of couples (women and men) | 2 | 2 |  |  |
| Images of eggs or oocytes | 5 | 5 |  |  |
| Images of future children | 8 | 9 |  |  |
| Images of future family | 3 | 3 |  |  |
| Images of medical staff or procedures | 3 | 3 |  |  |
| Images of nature | 1 | 1 |  |  |
| Images of women | 6 | 8 |  |  |
| Imagining the donor | 9 | 19 | How women who donate their eggs (their health status, characteristics and motivations to donate) are represented in advertising material | To donate eggs you should be between 18 and 35 years of age. Most egg donors will already have had children and will ideally have completed their family, although this is not an absolute requirement. Generally women who donate their eggs are: About to undergo sterilisation. A relative or friend of couples with difficulty conceiving. Volunteers who wish to help infertile couples.  Can I be an egg donor? To donate eggs you need to be under 36 years of age. Many of our donors wish to donate because they are aware of friends or relatives who need fertility treatment. They may donate altruistically to our programme, or through known donation to their friend/relative. Although many donors will have their own children, it is not an essential requirement  Egg donors are unique and remarkable women. Their kindness and generosity allows many childless couples to achieve their ultimate dream of having a family. |
| Informal egg donation | 1 | 1 |  | What are the advantages of donating through a clinic?  Collecting the eggs is a medical procedure that can only be performed by a HFEA licensed centre. You would not be the legal parent of any children born or have any of the rights or financial responsibilities associated with being a legal parent. Some women do help other women in private arrangements outside of clinics but this would also mean carrying the baby and giving birth. These women are then automatically classed as the child’s legal mother and the process to change this is more complicated. In addition to this, by donating through a clinic you would be screened for certain diseases and medical conditions to help ensure that babies born are healthy and that there are also no risks to those receiving your eggs. |
| Information available to the donor | 11 | 21 | [demonstrates the asymmetry in information provided to donor and recipient; and donor and donor-conceived children] | Can I find out if any children have been born as a result of my egg donation? Many donors like to find out if any babies have been born as a result of their egg donation. You are entitled to know if your eggs have been used successfully, including the number of children that have been born, whether they are boys or girls and the year of their birth. You will not be given any information which could lead to those children being identified. |
| Information for future children | 10 | 23 |  | The HFEA is required to maintain a register of highly confidential information about people who have licensed treatment, the donors, and the children who are born. Each clinic is legally required to collect certain information about donors. This includes your name, physical characteristics, ethnic origin and family medical history. You are also asked to provide as much information as possible about your interests, hobbies and skills, to describe why you decided to be an egg donor and to write a pen-picture (a short essay about yourself). This gives the child and family a sense of the kind of person you are – for many children this information will be important in order to have a complete sense of their own identity. Any child born as a result of egg donation on will be genetically related to your own children (they will be half-brothers or sisters). The law allows for the eggs from one donor to be used to create up to 10 families. However, because you may have children of your own, the law gives anyone who is planning to marry or have children the right to contact the HFEA Register and ask whether they are genetically related to their intended marriage partner (they do not have to be 16 to do this). Once they become 18, they are able to ask whether they were conceived by donation and they can be given non-identifying information about you if the parents have not already provided it. |
| Information for recipients | 6 | 9 |  | The prospective recipients of your eggs and the parents of children born with your eggs will be able to find out some non-identifying information about you. However, they will not be able to find out your name, or have any other information that they could use to trace you. |
| Intra partner donation | 2 | 2 | All mentions of this type of donation | Egg-sharing to your partner: Partner/Reciprocal IVF or 'shared motherhood' If you're in a same-sex relationship you can choose to egg-share to your partner as well as our egg donor programme. It's a popular choice for same-sex couples as it allows both of you to be physically involved in the creation and birth of your baby. |
| Known donation | 10 | 16 | All mentions of this type of donation | Are you considering donating eggs? Perhaps you have seen a programme on television, or read a magazine article about people who are infertile and the only way they could have a family would be with the aid of donated eggs. Perhaps you have someone in mind, a relative or friend, who you are considering donating your eggs to.  Do I have any say about how my eggs are used? You can say who you want to receive your eggs. For example, you may have decided to donate to a friend or relative. It is also possible to specify certain conditions if you are donating to people you do not know, although if you impose too many, you may not be accepted as a donor. |
| Legal parenthood | 9 | 14 | Reference to legal implications of donation | Will I be considered the parent of any children born from my donations? No, by donating through a licensed clinic you will not be the legal parent of any child born as a result from treatment with your eggs. You will not have any legal or financial responsibilities and you will not be named on the birth certificate. |
| Legal requirements | 8 | 18 | General [overlaps with other nodes where specific aspects of the legalities of egg donation are coded] | Will I be financially or legally liable for any children born from my donation? No, you will not be financially or legally liable.   The recipients of your donated eggs are the legal parents of any child born as a result of donated eggs. This means that you will have no financial or legal responsibility for any donor-conceived children now or in the future.  Egg Donation and the Law Any child born as a result of egg donation will be the legal child of the recipient not the donor. The HFEA keeps a register of all egg donors as well as all treatments using donated eggs. As the law stands the identity of a donor remains confidential as far as the parents of donor conceived children are concerned. However, at the age of 16, children born as a result of donated eggs will be legally entitled to non-identifying information about the donor and other donor conceived children to whom they are genetically related. 16 years olds who are entering a relationship may also find out whether they are genetically related. At the age of 18 they will be entitled to identifying information about the donor. They may also be given identifying information about donor conceived genetic siblings, if both sides consent. Parents of children conceived using donated eggs are provided with non identifying information about the donor. They may also ask the HFEA for information about the number, sex and year of birth of other children born from the same donor. The donor is entitled to non-identifying information about their offspring, specifically the number, sex and year of birth. Under regulations donors may help to produce children for a maximum of 10 families. However, women who donate in this clinic will be donating to a maximum of 2 couples in the process of one cycle. |
| Links with overseas clinics | 5 | 5 | How links with overseas clinics are presented and what function this serves | We have close links with [clinic name] that specialises in egg freezing and egg donation. Donation in Spain remains completely anonymous  We understand that finding a suitable egg donor is difficult. For many years we have established formal relationships with the most reputable overseas centres. We have co-management arrangements, which take the risk from overseas care as well as increasing convenience and decreasing cost. |
| Matching | 9 | 12 | How donor-recipient matching is presented | Finding a Match We will then look to match you to a woman who is waiting for an egg donor who has similar characteristics to yourself. Once a match has been found we would synchronise yours and recipients cycle. As the donated eggs aren’t frozen, the recipient’s uterus has to be at the right stage so that an embryo can be transferred a few days after the eggs are donated.  Matching and storage Your physical and ethnic characteristics will be matched to a recipient's requested donor type. If your eggs match a recipient, they will be used as fresh eggs. If a match isn't immediately found, your eggs will be frozen and stored. |
| Medication | 9 | 12 | All information about medication and its administration | What medication/ pills will I have to take?  Drugs are taken in the form of daily injections. These drugs mimic the action of the body’s natural hormones. Drug doses and combinations are calculated for each individual donor depending on a number of factors including age, medical history, BMI etc. Details will be given to you in the form of an individual ‘protocol’.   Do I have to have injections?  The drugs are given in the form of injections but it is very straightforward and you can do them yourself at home. You will attend an appointment where a fertility nurse will teach you how to administer the injections.  DRUGS The donors undertake to use certain drugs including a series of injections to ensure the development of more than one egg; The drugs most commonly used in treatment cycles are: Suprecur - a nasal spray that suppresses the hormones controlling the ovary. This is referred to as downregulation and a scan will be carried out to confirm this has happened before starting injections of Menopur/Gonal-F/Bemfola to stimulate the ovaries. Suprecur is continued while you are having the injections. Menopur/Gonal-F/Bemfola - an injection that stimulates the ovaries. During stimulation, careful ultrasound monitoring is necessary to assess the response of the ovaries by measuring the number and size of the follicles. When the follicles, which should each contain an egg, are the correct size you will be given another drug; HCG - an injection which brings about final maturation of the eggs. |
| Motivations for egg donation | 7 | 12 | How motivations for donation are presented [overlaps with imagining the donor] | Whatever your motivation behind becoming a donor, whether it’s seeing first hand the pain infertility can bring, a desire to pass on your genes, or just wanting to do something special, please contact us to take the next steps.  Donors are people from all walks of life - there is no such thing as a standard donor. What they have in common is a desire to give the gift of life and help people to achieve the family they otherwise could not have.  Some women wish to share their eggs from their own IVF treatment, in return for financial help in funding their own treatment. In these circumstances the egg recipient will contribute significantly to the donor’s treatment costs, in return for the donated eggs. |
| NEED for donor eggs | 16 | 49 | How the need for donor eggs is framed; recipients as women in medical need of donor eggs; waiting lists | For a variety of reasons, some women are unable to produce eggs that can be fertilised successfully. And, since the removal of donor anonymity in 2005, it has become increasingly difficult for these women to and others willing to donate their eggs in the UK. In fact, couples on waiting lists to receive donated eggs can wait for more than three years before a suitable donor becomes available.  For many women, using donated eggs is their only hope of getting pregnant. They may be unable to produce their own eggs, have suffered from premature menopause or required treatment that left them unable to conceive. |
| Number of eggs | 7 | 14 | How quantity is presented, mainly in relation to egg sharing | It is important that you understand what the expectation is regarding the number of eggs you are donating. Sharers commit to donate half of their eggs to a recipient, providing a sufficient number are collected (minimum 8). If during your treatment cycle it is found there are too few eggs to share you can still go ahead with egg collection and will retain all eggs for your own treatment. We aim to allocate eggs equally between you and the recipient, however if there is an odd number the extra egg is kept for your own treatment.  During the IVF process, your ovaries may produce 8 to 12 eggs and most of these will be collected; however, we may leave one or two behind unintentionally, therefore your fertility potential in the cycle is increased. You will be asked to take precautions against pregnancy by either avoiding intercourse or using a barrier method of contraception during this time. |
| Payment | 9 | 13 | Instances of the money transfer being referred to as payment; egg donors being paid | Do I get paid for donating my eggs? The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) allows a payment of £750 to egg donors to cover any expenses incurred.  UK regulations prohibit payment for egg donation, however, it does allow us to reimburse you for all reasonable costs incurred, such as travel expenses, childcare, etc. up to a maximum of £750 per donation cycle. All the medical consultations and tests you require are free, as is the Implications Counselling appointment. We’re happy to answer any questions you may have about re-imbursement when you visit us here at [clinic name].  Get paid to donate your eggs and help fulfil another person’s dream of having a family. |
| Process as easy and straightforward | 1 | 3 |  | THE PROCESS WAS VERY STRAIGHT FORWARD, AND THE TEAM AT [clinic name] OFFER SO MUCH ADVICE, HELP AND SUPPORT ALONG THE WAY. |
| Recipients | 3 | 5 | How the recipients are talked about; who the egg providers are donating to [overlaps with how the need for egg donation is framed] | We deal with all types of people, from single women, same-sex couples and heterosexual couples who require our services.  Couples are accepted onto the [clinic name] waiting list to receive donated eggs only after consultation and counselling. There are a number of reasons why people consider using donated eggs. Some women are unable to produce eggs. This might be because their ovaries have not developed properly, or it can be the result of premature menopause, surgery or certain types of drug treatment. Other women carry a gene c abnormality that might be passed on to the child if their own eggs are used. |
| Requirements for egg donors | 14 | 36 |  | Am I eligible to donate my eggs? Due to the stringent criteria outlined by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), not all women are able to donate their eggs. To become an egg donor, you must meet the following criteria: You must be aged between 18 and 35 as generally, natural fertility and egg quality starts to decline when you reach 35 You need to have a clear medical history with no genetic or hereditary disorders (such as Type 1 Diabetes) You need to be willing to attend regular clinic appointments, including counselling, to ensure you fully understand the implications of donating your eggs You need to consent that any child born from your eggs can find out about you, if they wish to, when they turn 18. This follows a change in the law in 2005, which gave donor-conceived children the right to find out about their background. Egg donors must go through  a series of screening tests to ensure they are healthy , so if you have a serious medical history, or a family history of hereditary or genetic conditions, you will be unable to donate your eggs. Likewise, if you do not know your family history, because you are adopted for example, you would also be unable to donate. I smoke, can I still donate my eggs? No. We do not accept smokers as egg donors or egg sharers due to the risks to egg quality caused by nicotine. When you apply to become an egg donor or egg sharer, we ask whether you smoke or not and we will test your urine for nicotine at your appointments. If you used to smoke, or are trying to stop smoking now, you must have no nicotine in your system for at least three months prior to your donation application. You should then be free from the effects of nicotine. |
| Risks | 9 | 25 | How risks (or lack thereof) are presented | At the Initial Consultation, your Fertility Specialist will explain the treatment programme and the procedures involved in egg donation. The doctor will also give you essential information about the treatment itself and the potential risks and complications associated with it.  The safety of the donors is very important to us. We use a designated protocol for all our egg donors which is associated with almost no risk of Ovarian Hyper Stimulation Syndrome (OHSS). We also take care to closely monitor your cycle, so we can take preventive measures to avoid any risk. |
| Screening of donors | 13 | 28 | All info on donor screening | Donor screening All egg donors are screened to ensure they are not at risk of passing on genetic disorders or infections. This screening includes a full medical and family history, including both your parents and children. Blood tests are then carried out for some genetic disorders to determine whether you are a carrier (e.g. for cystic fibrosis) and viral infection screens are performed (e.g. HIV, hepatitis).  What screening tests are performed? The following screening tests will be carried out to assess whether you can donate; HIV Hepatitis B Hepatitis C Cystic fibrosis screen VDRL and TPHA (to exclude syphilis) Cytomegalovirus – CMV (IgG and IgM assay) Cytogenetic analysis to examine the chromosomes of the cells Blood group Chlamydia (urine test) Gonorrhoea (urine test) There may be additional tests that need to be carried out depending on your ethnicity or country of birth. |
| Shortage of donor eggs | 11 | 15 | Shortage of donor eggs vs. no waiting list | You're considering becoming an egg donor. We know it's probably daunting, you almost certainly have questions, but you're here. And that makes you a big deal. Fertility treatment is a big deal, too. Every day, it transforms the lives of women around the world, and thousands of fertility treatments are only possible because a woman like you donates an egg. The problem today is that the UK doesn't have enough donors. So thank you for being here. You understand only a woman like you can change another woman's life. In other words, you believe you have the power to share something amazing.  Donor eggs in Britain have historically been in short supply. The result was that many women who needed egg donation had either endure long waiting lists - which is not always a realistic option in older patients - or travel abroad to countries like Spain where donor eggs were more plentiful. But all that has changed in the past few years - especially for [clinic name] patients and clinic partners in the [clinic name], where patients have access to a very large database of UK-recruited HFEA-compliant egg donors. |
| Support for donors | 5 | 8 |  | As a [organisation], we’ve been judged to provide only the highest quality care to our egg donors - we don’t just give you the information you need to decide to become an egg donor, we support you every step of the way, from application to donation and beyond.  The donor programme team will support you through the process every step of the way and are happy to answer any queries you may have. |
| The donation process | 8 | 15 | All information about the donation process; often very detailed | What’s the process? We'll support you through every step of the donation process 1 Eligibility You can take the first step to becoming a donor by answering some simple questions to find out if you are eligible 2 Donor Coordinator If you are eligible, we will make an appointment for you to meet a Donor Coordinator. This is an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. 3 Screening tests If you are eligible to become an egg donor, the next step is screening. This means a detailed medical history, a medical consultation to test your blood and urine, and hormone and ultrasound tests to see how many eggs your ovary has 'in reserve'. There will also be lots of discussion, to make sure you fully understand the journey ahead, and qualified counsellors will be on hand to explain what egg donation means socially, emotionally and legally. This is all included as part of our service. 4 Added to the database When you complete screening, you will enter our database and become a candidate for matching to a woman who needs a donor egg. At this stage you'll be asked to complete a donor information form from the HFEA (Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority). 5 Goodwill message A goodwill message is built into the paperwork from the HFEA. We can support you to write this message, which can include any information you would like to pass on to a child born as a result of your egg donation. 6 Matching and storage Your physical and ethnic characteristics will be matched to a recipient's requested donor type. If your eggs match a recipient, they will be used as fresh eggs. If a match isn't immediately found, your eggs will be frozen and stored. 7 Treatment The treatment itself consists of two phases - stimulation and egg collection. You'll need daily injections to stop your usual egg release, to stimulate the ovaries and to prepare eggs for collection. Egg collection itself involves a minor operation with an anaesthetic injection. 8 Process completion When your treatment is over you'll be fully registered with the HFEA. You'll also receive some final information from your clinic that concludes your journey as a donor. You can request information from the HFEA about the number, gender and year of birth of any people born as a result of your donation. |
| What happens to the eggs after collection | 3 | 6 | Lots of information about what happens up to the point of egg collection with comparatively much less about what happens to the eggs afterwards [overlaps with egg freezing, number of families] | The embryos that are formed are kept in an incubator for two to three days and then one (or two) embryos are transferred into the recipient woman’s uterus (womb). The couple then have a chance of having a baby that is genetically linked to the father, is carried by the mother, and has a genetic link to the egg donor.  Usually only one or two families are helped with each egg share cycle. |
| Wider impact of donation on donor's family | 8 | 14 |  | What should I tell my children? This is an important issue for everyone involved in donation. We encourage people seeking treatment to weigh up all the implications of their choices and discuss their concerns with our independent counsellor.  If you are accepted on to the egg share programme you will then need to see our Counsellor. This allows you to discuss any concerns you have about egg sharing such as the implications for you and your family. It is essential that everyone who is considering egg sharing has counselling with their partner.  The donation of eggs to help a couple to have a child is one of the most generous gifts anyone can give. Many donors feel a sense of pride, knowing the joy they have brought to people who could not otherwise become parents. However, the decision to donate can have far-reaching consequences for you, the people who receive your donation, any children that are born as a result, and for your own family if you have one. |
| Women not suitable as donors | 4 | 5 |  | Unfortunately not all women wishing to donate their eggs or share their eggs will be suitable, and may not pass the screening process. The most common reason for not being accepted is a concern about responding adequately to the treatment. Less commonly, the screening may flag up other issues.  When I had a child of my own and knew the joy of being a parent I wanted to give something back and say thank you to those IVF patients by donating eggs. Sadly I left it too late and was too old but knowing the reasons why I wasn’t accepted meant I didn’t feel rejected. |