

Respecting your relationship while undergoing fertility treatment

It is not necessary to be in a relationship to go through fertility treatment. Many single people will go through fertility treatment using donated sperm or will enter into a co-parenting relationship with a friend.

However, where you are in a relationship, we need to understand how you want us to handle that relationship in order for us to understand your needs in helping you to have a family. We would therefore be very grateful if you could fill out the attached relationship declaration form.

The form covers a number of aspects of your care as a couple during the testing and treatment process. This particularly affects your consents to sharing information as well as considering the issues around genetic testing.

Specifically, we ask you to keep us informed about any changes in your relationship so that we can keep our records up to date with the arrangements for protecting your privacy and the decision-making around stored reproductive materials.

Privacy with regard to test results

A person's test results are normally their own private business and would not normally be shared with any other party. However, in the course of fertility treatment, it is common to give results to both partners at a joint meeting. At other times, results will normally only be communicated to the person involved. However, on occasions, one partner may be unavailable and may wish for their partner to receive the results on their behalf. To let us know how you want us to handle these issues, please indicate which option you prefer.

Genetic testing

All humans carry genetic variations. However, this doesn't affect your child unless you and your partner both carry the same genetic variation. While this rarely happens, it becomes important with three common gene variants, cystic fibrosis, spinal muscular atrophy and fragile X. We therefore recommend that one of you, normally the female partner, is checked for these. However, if you both come from a smaller community or are descended from the same family, then more extensive checking should be considered.

Please discuss this matter with your doctor.

