

Overview

Access to government-funded fertility services is available to eligible patients for all forms of infertility, including medical and non-medical infertility, such as for single people or same sex couples. It is also open to those who require a donor or surrogate. Access to the program is not based on gender, sexual orientation or family status.

Under the Ontario Fertility Program, the government contributes to the funding of:

- Unlimited cycles of artificial insemination (AI), including intra-uterine insemination (IUI)
- One cycle of fertility preservation (FP) for medical reasons (sperm or egg preservation), per patient per lifetime
- One cycle of in vitro fertilization (IVF) per patient per lifetime
 - Exception of one additional cycle of IVF per lifetime if patient has acted or is acting as a surrogate.

Artificial Insemination (AI) / Intra-Uterine Insemination (IUI)

Am I eligible for funded AI/IUI?

You must hold a valid Ontario health card.

How do I receive funded AI/IUI?

- Contact a participating clinic (listed at www.ontario.ca/fertility) and meet with a physician to set an appropriate treatment plan
- Sign a consent form with a participating clinic
- Participating clinic will confirm your eligibility. Please note, being placed on a wait list does not indicate eligibility.

Can I use a donor?

Yes, the program covers services for patients using donor sperm but does not cover the cost to purchase donor sperm.

What services are covered?

- Physician/nurse assessments and counselling
- Cycle monitoring
- Certain blood and urine tests
- Certain ultrasounds
- Insemination procedure (but not sperm washing).

What services are not covered?

- Any drugs or medications
- Sperm washing/preparation before insemination
- Purchase, shipping or storage of donor sperm
- Counselling by a psychologist or social worker
- Various optional tests.

Fertility Preservation (FP)

Am I eligible for funded FP?

You must meet all of the following three criteria:

- Hold a valid Ontario health card; and
- Be diagnosed by a physician as having a medical condition where the planned treatment for that condition is known to affect fertility and may lead to infertility; and
- Have not yet received one funded FP cycle per lifetime (patients can receive funded FP separate from funded IVF).

How do I receive funded FP?

- Contact a participating clinic (listed at www.ontario.ca/fertility) and meet with a physician to set an appropriate treatment plan
- Sign a consent form with a participating clinic
- Participating clinic will confirm your eligibility. Please note, being placed on a wait list does not indicate eligibility.

What services are covered?

- Physician/nurse assessments and counselling
- Up to two attempts at cycle monitoring
- Certain blood and urine tests
- Certain Ultrasounds
- One attempt at egg retrieval
- Sperm collection or, if required, one attempt at surgical sperm retrieval using certain techniques
- Freezing of one batch/sample of eggs or sperm.

What services are not covered?

- Any drugs or medications
- Preservation of additional batches/samples
- Storage or shipping of eggs/sperm.
- Counselling by a psychologist or social worker
- Various optional tests.

In Vitro Fertilization (IVF)

Am I eligible for funded IVF?

Eligibility is determined based on the patient who will undergo the embryo transfer (the patient who is trying to get pregnant), and who must meet all of the following three criteria:

- Hold a valid Ontario health card; and
- Be under age 43 years old; and
- Have not yet received one funded IVF cycle per lifetime (patients can receive funded IVF separate from funded FP).

Can my partner or donor participate?

Other people can participate in the patient's funded IVF cycle (such as providing eggs or sperm). There is no age requirement for them, but they must also hold a valid Ontario health card in order to receive funded services (such as egg retrieval or sperm collection/retrieval); otherwise, the clinic may charge for the services provided to the other participants.

How do I receive funded IVF?

- Contact a participating clinic (listed at www.ontario.ca/fertility) and meet with a physician to set an appropriate treatment plan
- Sign a consent form with a participating clinic
- Participating clinic will confirm your eligibility. Please note, being placed on a wait list does not indicate eligibility.

Will there be a waiting list?

Waiting times to receive funded IVF vary from clinic to clinic. All clinics must have established wait list policies to manage patients seeking to receive funded services. Ask your clinic for its wait list policy and the approximate wait time for funded IVF.

What services are covered?

- Physician/nurse assessments and counselling
- Up to two attempts at cycle monitoring
- Certain blood and urine tests
- Certain Ultrasounds
- One attempt at egg retrieval
- Sperm collection or, if required, one attempt at surgical sperm retrieval using certain techniques
- Fertilization and embryology services, including intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), assisted hatching and blastocyst culture
- One-at-a-time transfer of all embryos (fresh/frozen)
- Embryo freezing, thawing and culture.

What services are not covered?

- Any drugs or medications
- Storage or shipping of eggs/sperm/embryos
- Purchase of donor sperm or eggs
- Counselling by a psychologist or social worker
- Various optional tests
- Any services performed on other people participating in the patient's funded IVF cycle, if they do not also hold a valid Ontario health card.

How many embryos can I transfer?

A multiple pregnancy (twins/triplets) presents health risks for mothers and babies. There is a mandatory single embryo transfer policy for funded IVF, although there are some exceptions based on patient age and other medical criteria. Ask your clinic for more details.

Funded IVF Cycle: *Start to Finish*

The program recognizes that every patient will have different fertility treatment needs. While funding covers one IVF cycle, that cycle will vary from patient to patient. The cycle start points specify the different entry types into the program, while the cycle end points indicate when the funded cycle is complete and the patient is not eligible for further funded IVF services.

*The funded IVF cycle includes the one-at-a-time transfer of **all** viable embryos from **one** start point to the **first** end point:*

Cycle Start Points

You will:

- Undergo an egg retrieval
- Have a donor undergo an egg retrieval for you
- Use previously-retrieved eggs (own or donor); or
- Use previously-created embryos (own or donor).

Cycle End Points

- Two cycle monitoring attempts with no egg retrieval
- One failed egg retrieval
- One failed surgical sperm retrieval and no alternate sperm source is chosen
- Fertilization and culture of all eggs from cycle start resulted in no viable embryos to transfer
- Thawing/culture of all frozen embryos from cycle start resulted in no viable embryos to transfer; or
- Transfers of all viable embryos (fresh & frozen) from cycle start were performed or are no longer available.

If at any time you wish to permanently end your funded cycle, you may do so by concluding care, which must be done in writing with your clinic. By choosing to conclude care you will not be eligible for any more funded IVF services in the future.

Questions or Concerns? Call ServiceOntario INFOLine:

In Toronto 416-314-5518

Toll Free 1-866-532-3161

TTY 1-800-387-5559

Available 8:30am - 5:00pm

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