

Semen Freezing (Cryopreservation) Information

What is sperm freezing? This is the process of freezing and storing semen samples so you and your partner may use them to become pregnant in the future.

Why would I want to freeze sperm? There are many situations that could interfere with your future fertility. These may include: Chemotherapy Radiation therapy, certain types of pelvic or testicular surgery, vasectomy, illnesses (such as diabetes or multiple sclerosis) that may cause erectile difficulty, spinal cord disease or injury, high risk occupations or sports, preparation for travel during fertility treatment. For these reasons and others, many men decide to freeze sperm as a safeguard against unforeseen future circumstances.

How do I arrange to freeze sperm? You can arrange to freeze sperm by contacting the office to book an appointment. Please bring your government photo ID with you to the appointment and be prepared to sign consent forms for the freezing and storage of your semen. If you do not have your government photo ID you will not be able to freeze a sample. You will then be escorted to a private room to produce a semen specimen. You will give your specimen to one of our laboratory technicians who will then analyze the sperm, freeze it, and then store it for future use. We would prefer that you collect the specimen on-site in one of our private collection rooms.

After this appointment you will be asked to have a blood test for infectious diseases listed below. This is required unless you provide of copy of the lab results that were drawn in the last 12 months at the time of your appointment. If you are unable to provide the results you will be required to get the blood work drawn that day.

- Hepatitis B surface antigen with confirmation
- Hepatitis B core antibody, total with reflex to IgM
- Hepatitis C antibody
- HIV 1 & 2 antibody
- RPR (Syphilis) with reflex to titer

How many samples should I freeze? Multiple donations are usually recommended, but even one sperm sample may be enough for conception. Everyone's situation is unique; however, most men freeze between two and five samples. In many cases, the time interval prior to surgery, chemotherapy, or radiation treatment will be the deciding factor for how many samples can be collected for freezing. We recommend that you abstain from sexual intercourse and ejaculation for two days before the first sample and for about two days between samples.

How long can sperm stay frozen? Sperm can be frozen indefinitely. Damage occurs to the sperm during freezing and thawing, not while it is frozen. We will continue to store the sperm for as long as the annual storage fee is paid. However, you must keep us updated regarding any address changes. If we can't reach you to collect the storage fee and to confirm that you want to maintain the frozen samples, we will thaw and destroy them.

How successful is it? The success rates of using stored sperm vary and depend on several factors. First, your health or underlying illness may affect the quality of the sperm at the time they are frozen. Second, approximately 60% of the sperm frozen will survive the freezing and thawing process. Third, the success rates will depend on your female partner's age, fertility status, and the method of assisted reproduction that is used. If the sperm quality is low, a pregnancy can still be achieved but may require a more complex form of treatment, such as ICSI (intracytoplasmic sperm injection)



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How do I use the sperm in the future? Once the sperm is thawed, it can be put in your partner’s uterus in a process called intrauterine insemination (IUI). If the sperm is not of sufficient quality or quantity, in vitro fertilization (IVF) and intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) may be required. This involves stimulating your partner’s ovaries, then retrieving several eggs which are each injected with a single sperm in our lab. The resulting embryos are then replaced back in your partner’s uterus.

Are there any problems with the children conceived from the use of frozen/thawed sperm? There doesn’t appear to be any difference in the rate of abnormalities or birth defects among children conceived with fresh or frozen sperm. However, there are some theoretical concerns that treatments like chemotherapy may have unknown effects on the sperm or the offspring. We encourage you to discuss this with your physician.

What happens if I die before the sperm has been used? If your partner wants to consider using your sperm after your death, you must give written consent. This is a very sensitive issue that we encourage you to discuss with your partner and legal counsel. In all other circumstances, your sperm samples will be discarded if we can’t contact you to collect the storage fee or in the event of your death.

What does it cost to freeze sperm? There is a fee for freezing each sample, as well as a storage fee for the first year or portion thereof. The storage fee is payable initially and every year thereafter, unless you request that we thaw and destroy your samples.

The fee for the cryopreservation of sperm is \$230 per freeze. This fee will be assessed along with the first year’s storage charge of \$173. The total for these fees is \$403 and is due at time of service. Prior to the freeze, an analysis of the specimen will be required. The additional charge will be assessed at time of service and the analysis performed will vary by patient. Analyses and associated fees have been listed below.

If you continue to store your sperm for more than one year, you will be billed annually for storage. The storage fee for year two is \$233 and increases \$50 per year beginning year three. The annual storage fee maximum is \$333 per year. Charges will be billed on the anniversary of the date the specimen was frozen. If you choose to no longer store your sperm, you must sign and notarize the “Request to Thaw and Dispose of Cryopreserved Sperm” form. Our office must receive this form within 30 days of your anniversary (billing) date. If you fail to return the properly completed form to us within this time frame, no adjustments to the charge will be made.

If you move or your marital status changes, the storage will continue to be billed on the male partner’s account. It is your responsibility to keep us informed of changes that may affect the disposition of your frozen sperm. If you are living outside the United States, you will be required to pay for five years of storage in advance.

	CPT Code	Cost
Sperm count	89310	\$ 80.00
Semen analysis	89320	\$143.00
Retrograde ejaculation	89331	
<i>(results determine tests needed and fees billed)</i>	81015	\$174.00 - \$254.00
	89310	