

IVF Funding and What It Means For Me

MINISTRY OF ONTARIO FERTILITY PROGRAM

In December 2015, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term care announced funding for fertility treatments in Ontario.

This program covers the cost of one IVF cycle per patient in Ontario per lifetime and/or unlimited intrauterine insemination cycles. This is available to Ontarians regardless of sex, gender, orientation, or family status

The Ontario Fertility Funding Program covers multiple services:

- **Intra-uterine insemination (IUI) cycles**
 - Injecting sperm directly into the uterus
 - *Unlimited cycles per lifetime*
- **In-vitro fertilization (IVF) cycles**
 - Manually fertilizing eggs with sperm in a lab, transferring the embryo into the uterus
 - *One (1) cycle per lifetime*
 - This included one egg retrieval and all subsequent transfers of embryos resulting from the recovered eggs.
- **Fertility Preservation (FP) cycles**
 - Freezing sperm or egg samples to be used later in either artificial insemination or in-vitro fertilization
 - *One (1) cycle per lifetime*
 - Necessary as a result of other medical treatment that may reduce fertility (e.g. cancer).

To be eligible, you must meet the following criteria:

- Be referred from another physician (family doctor, walk-in clinic, etc.)
- Possess a valid OHIP card
- If you are a woman, you are under the age of 43
- Have a medical reason for seeking fertility treatments

There are things which are not covered under the Ontario Fertility Funding Program:

- Fertility medication expenses
- Clinic administration fees (e.g. Embryo or sperm storage, etc.)
- Some testing for male or female partners (e.g. AMH blood test, vitamin D testing, some sperm tests, etc.)
- “Extra” services in the cycle (e.g. PGS testing, donor sperm/eggs)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

How long will I wait before doing my funded IVF cycle?

Once we have received your referral, you will be seen for your initial consultation within 4 – 6 weeks. The initial investigative period takes approx. 4 – 6 weeks. Then we will be able to move forward with an appropriate treatment plan.

The increased demand for funded IVF cycles has caused a wait time at all Ontario fertility clinics. Please contact our clinic at 519-570-0090 x 2 to inquire about our wait time.

What is a medical cause for receiving fertility treatment?

The definition of infertility is 12 months of unprotected intercourse without achieving a pregnancy. During your investigation period, we will do tests to determine the underlying medical causes of infertility. Other factors such as family status (single) or orientation (LGBTQ relationships) can be reasons to seek fertility treatments.

In the case of fertility preservation, the medical necessity must result from a treatment for a condition unrelated to fertility that can potentially reduce or eliminate the ability to conceive children in the future. This is available for both men and women. Some examples include: chemotherapy or radiation for cancer, some treatments for immunological conditions, or surgical removal of reproductive organs.

Why are there still fees that I will have to pay, I thought my IVF was going to be free?

The Ministry of Ontario covers the “base package” for an IVF cycle. This includes the monitoring blood work and ultrasounds, lab fees for the IVF procedure, cost of doctor’s visits.

The Ontario Fertility Program does not cover the cost of fertility drugs (can be up to \$5000), special diagnostic tests, storage for your sperm/eggs/embryos, and other fees like pre-implantation genetic screening (PGS). Your specific treatment plan and costs will be discussed with your doctor.

How many embryos can I transfer? I want to have the best chance of conceiving with my funded cycle.

Funded cycles have guidelines for the number of embryos that can be transferred. For most people, it is one embryo. However, the funding covers all subsequent frozen transfers and the overall pregnancy rate is the same over more cycles with one embryos as less transfers with multiple embryos. In some cases, transferring two embryos is permitted, these situations will be discussed with your doctor.

For more information: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-fertility-treatments> or contact our office.