

## Patient Resources – Fertility Support

According to the literature, oncofertility is an aspect of cancer care that appears to be less studied and developed. It is defined as minimizing regular effects of cancer treatment on the reproductive system and fertility and assisting individuals with reproductive impairments resulting from cancer therapy. Healthcare advocates recommend an early intervention and counseling for newly diagnosed patients, in order to provide the best possible outcomes.

Standard treatments in cancer care (surgery, chemotherapy and radiation) can impact reproductive pathways in both male and female patients. Type and extent of treatments, location of the malignancy and age are all factors that can affect fertility.

Recent studies have shown that a very low percentage of early age onset cancer patients are presented with information on the subject and an offer for fertility counseling and preservation. There is also a notably limited number of specialized in-vitro fertilization clinics in Canada.

For more information, see the following article entitled: “Oncofertility in Canada: the impact of cancer on fertility”

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3728062/>

### **Canada-Wide:**

#### *Fertile Future*

A national non-profit organization that provides fertility preservation information and support services to cancer patients and oncology professionals.

<https://fertilefuture.ca/about-us/>

#### *The Power of Hope: Cost Reduction Program*

A multi-dimensional plan that offers financial assistance to qualifying cancer patients, providing subsidies to facilitate the process of fertility preservation treatment.

Female cancer patients who qualify for the Power of Hope Program receive:

- 1) compassionate pharmaceutical product;
- 2) maximum charge of \$4,000 for egg retrieval and egg or embryo cryopreservation, and

3) Fertile Future will reimburse qualifying female patients up to \$2,000\* on a sliding scale to help assist in accessing these vital services

Household income between \$0-\$50,000 will be reimbursed up to \$2,000

Household income between \$50,001-\$99,999 will be reimbursed up to \$1,000

Household income between \$100,000 and \$125,000 will be reimbursed up to \$500

Male cancer patient that qualify for the program will receive a reimbursement for sperm cryo-preservation of up to \$350.00.

<https://fertilefuture.ca/programs/power-of-hope/>

## **By province:**

### British Columbia

#### *Pacific Centre for Reproductive Medicine (PCRM): Cancer Fertility Preservation*

PCRM offers assisted reproductive technologies including in vitro fertilization, and the cryopreservation of eggs, embryos and ovarian tissue.

PCRM subsidizes these services for eligible patients and works with pharmaceutical companies to supply medication.

#### *Female criteria for PCRM Fertility Preservation Program:*

- Under 40 and resident of British Columbia with valid CareCard
- Medical clearance from both your oncology team and the PCRM physicians
- No prior exposure to chemotherapeutic agents or pelvic radiation
- Undergoing cancer therapy that will potentially reduce your future fertility (chemotherapy or pelvic radiotherapy)

#### *PCRM will provide:*

##### Female

- One (1) IVF/ICSI treatment cycle at \$4000
- Request for additional funding through the [Power of Hope Cost Reduction Program](#) through Fertile Future with reimbursement up to \$2000.
- Free cryopreservation of any egg and embryos generated, with storage for a period of one (1) year

##### Male

- Sperm cryopreservation at \$300

- Request for additional funding through the [Power of Hope Cost Reduction Program](#) through Fertile Future with reimbursement up to \$350.

*Patients are financially responsible for:*

- Cryopreservation storage fees for eggs, embryos and sperm beyond one year at \$400 and any fees related to the utilization of the eggs and embryos for future treatments at 50% off.
- Medications not provided by PCRMR Fertility Preservation Foundation and our participating vendors will be provided “at cost” (no mark-up) through the PCRMR pharmacy. These costs uncommonly exceed \$1000 and depend on the availability of compassionate product.

<https://pacificfertility.ca/our-services/cancer-fertility-preservation>

If you have any questions regarding your treatment or the PCRMR Fertility Preservation Program please feel free to contact Dr. Jeffrey Roberts through the clinic, 604-422-7276 or directly by email: [jroberts@pacificfertility.ca](mailto:jroberts@pacificfertility.ca)

## Alberta

*Pacific Centre for Reproductive Medicine (PCRMR): Cancer Fertility Preservation*

PCRMR offers assisted reproductive technologies including in vitro fertilization, and the cryopreservation of eggs, embryos and ovarian tissue.

PCRMR subsidizes these services for eligible patients and works with pharmaceutical companies to supply medication.

*Female criteria for PCRMR Fertility Preservation Program:*

- Under 40 and resident of Alberta with valid Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan
- Medical clearance from both your oncology team and the PCRMR physicians
- No prior exposure to chemotherapeutic agents or pelvic radiation
- Undergoing cancer therapy that will potentially reduce your future fertility (chemotherapy or pelvic radiotherapy)

*PCRMR will provide:*

### Female

- One (1) IVF/ICSI treatment cycle at \$4000
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<https://edmonton.pacificfertility.ca/our-services/fertility-preservation/>

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*Generations of Hope Fertility Assistance Fund*

Conceived in 2005 as an initiative of the Regional Fertility program in Calgary. The primary objective of the Fund is to help patients of the Regional Fertility Program who wish to conceive a child but who are facing fertility challenges, and who also face serious financial challenges that make the hope offered by assisted reproductive technology through the Regional Fertility Program – particularly IVF – an unaffordable option for them.

The Fund is 100% supported by corporate and individual donations.

<http://www.gensofhope.com/>

Saskatchewan

*Fertility Care Pathway – Saskatchewan Health Authority*

A primary source of information for patients living in Saskatchewan who have fertility concerns or who are seeking fertility care.

<https://www.saskhealthauthority.ca/Services-Locations/patient-pathways/Pages/Information-for-Providers/Fertility-Care-Pathway-Providers.aspx>

## Manitoba

### *Fertility Treatment Tax Credit*

Information on the Fertility Treatment Tax Credit, which is equal to 40% of the cost of fertility treatments provided by a Manitoba licensed medical practitioner or infertility treatment clinic.

[https://www.gov.mb.ca/finance/tao/fttc\\_faq.html#question1](https://www.gov.mb.ca/finance/tao/fttc_faq.html#question1)

Dr. Anne Katz, of Cancer Care Manitoba, is a strong advocate for cancer patients in the area of sexuality. She is committed to informing, educating and counseling on the subject of changes to one's sexuality (sexual performance, or other such difficulties experienced as a result of treatments). Dr. Katz is a strong proponent of empowering patients and caregivers to openly discuss such issues.

<http://www.drannekatz.com/>

## Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba

### *Procrea Fertility*

The largest group of In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) centres in Canada. Clinics in Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba, providing expertise in IVF, diagnostic testing, prenatal screening, genetic testing and cryopreservation (egg freezing).

<https://procrea.ca/>

## Ontario

*University Health Network, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre \_\_\_\_\_  
Resources for Adolescent & Young Adult Oncology Patients and Supporters*

Provides resources on the fertility preservation process for men and women undergoing cancer treatment, and includes information on the government-funded Ontario Fertility Program available to eligible patients (those with a valid Ontario health card).

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

[https://www.uhn.ca/PrincessMargaret/Clinics/Adolescent\\_Young\\_Adult\\_Oncology/Pages/fertility.aspx](https://www.uhn.ca/PrincessMargaret/Clinics/Adolescent_Young_Adult_Oncology/Pages/fertility.aspx)

### *CREATE Fertility Center*

One of the largest and most extensive fertility preservation centers of its kind in the country.

Offers a wide array of fertility preservation options, including egg and embryo freezing, ovarian tissue freezing, ovarian transposition, egg donation, surrogacy, sperm banking, and sperm donation.

<https://www.createivf.com/>

The Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) covers most fertility preservation services for oncology patients. These include egg freezing, embryo freezing and sperm freezing. Have oncologist or family doc fill form:

<https://www.createivf.com/documents/createivf-oncofertility-referral.pdf>

### *Mount Sinai Fertility*

Learn about the range of fertility services that Mount Sinai Hospital offers to patients. You can find referral forms on their website to receive a consultation and begin discussing your options with a fertility specialist.

<http://mountsinaifertility.com/our-services/fertility-preservation/>

### *Conceivable Dreams*

A grassroots organization that advocates for current and future families, building awareness and empowering choices to address infertility and reproductive health issues.

<https://conceivabledreams.org/>

## Quebec

*McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) Reproductive Centre: Fertility Preservation*

A leading centre in Canada for fertility preservation, offering the full range of treatments for fertility preservation including: sperm cryopreservation, egg and embryo cryopreservation, ovarian tissue cryopreservation, and ovarian transposition. The team works in collaboration with the Oncology team at MUHC to ensure that safe and effective treatments are available.

<https://muhc.ca/reproductivecentre/page/fertility-preservation>

## Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland

*East Coast Miracles*

A patient-led group that advocates for provincial funding of fertility treatment in the Atlantic provinces.

<https://www.facebook.com/EastCoastMiracles>