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## Prophylactic Semen Freezing for Chemotherapy/Radiotherapy Patients

Fertility Gold Coast provides the service of semen cryo-preservation to patients about to undergo chemotherapy or radiotherapy where there is a high likelihood of their being rendered sterile, at least on a temporary basis, as a result of the treatment. The semen is frozen and stored in liquid nitrogen for future use should spermatogenesis fail to recover after treatment.

### How do I go about having semen frozen?

Your doctor **must** telephone the Fertility Gold Coast Office 55648455 and arrange a brief consultation for you with one of the Fertility Gold Coast clinicians. We will need to co-ordinate this with our scientists as they need to be available to freeze the semen.

Your doctor **must** give you a letter of referral to Fertility Gold Coast.

### How and where do I take the semen specimen?

On the day of the appointment you should collect a semen specimen by masturbation into a sterile specimen jar provided by your doctor. You should take the specimen to:

Fertility Gold Coast Office  
Suite 6, 1st Floor Pindara Place  
13 Carrara St Benowa Q 4215

It should be **no more than 2 hours old** when you deliver it to the office at the agreed time. After collection it should simply be kept at room temperature. The specimen will be of the best possible quality if you have not had an ejaculation for at least 48 hours prior to collection.

### How many specimens should I have frozen?

If time allows before you begin treatment we may freeze a second or third specimen until we have around 10-12 ampoules frozen. The number of ampoules prepared from one specimen will depend on its volume at the time. Due to space limitations we are not prepared to freeze an unlimited number of specimens. We are unwilling to freeze specimens collected after your treatment has begun.

### What will this cost me?

There is no cost to you for the freezing of the semen. You should bring your Medicare card with you as a Semen Analysis will be bulk-billed when we assess the specimen prior to freezing it. There may be a nominal on-going storage charge billed yearly after the first year's storage.

### What are my obligations to QFG once my semen has been frozen?

We ask you to keep us notified of any change in your postal address. At times we will contact you to verify that you wish the semen storage to continue. If we are repeatedly unable to contact you, or on-going storage charges remain unpaid, we will discontinue storage of the semen. There is no time limit on storage of the semen.

### Will the semen guarantee that I will be able to father a child?

There is no guarantee that the semen will be of sufficient quantity or quality to result in a pregnancy. Ten to twelve ampoules of good quality semen will produce a pregnancy in a vast majority of couples providing there is no other factor causing infertility in the female partner.

If your illness has already caused your semen to be of lesser quality, it is possible that you may have to resort to the modern reproductive technologies such as IVF to improve the chances of gaining a pregnancy from the frozen semen.