

Fertility Scotland Network

Patient Information - Storage Fees

What is a storage fee?

This is what you will be charged to store eggs, sperm or embryos in NHS Scotland. The storage fee is standard across NHS Scotland.

Who will need to pay a storage fee?

Patients who are self-funding fertility treatment within NHS Scotland will need to pay a storage fee for any eggs, sperm or embryos that are stored.

Patients who have had NHS fertility treatment might also have to pay a storage fee, but only when they are no longer eligible for NHS treatment. Some examples of situations where a storage fee would need to be paid include (but are not limited to):

1. A couple have had a baby from NHS treatment and have eggs, sperm or embryos in storage and want their samples to remain stored.
2. The patient who is planning on becoming pregnant is over 43 years of age and the couple have eggs, sperm or embryos in storage and want their samples to remain stored.

If I am still eligible for NHS fertility treatment, will I need to pay a storage fee?

No – only patients who are no longer eligible for NHS fertility treatment will need to pay a storage fee if they want their samples to remain stored.

If you do not know if you are eligible for NHS fertility treatment, ask your treating centre and a member of staff will be able to tell you.

I already have samples stored in NHS Scotland and have not previously paid to store my eggs, sperm or embryos. Will I have to pay a storage fee?

If you are eligible for NHS fertility treatment, you will not need to pay a storage fee.

If you are not eligible for NHS treatment, then you will need to pay a storage fee when you are ready to renew your storage consent and want your eggs, sperm, or embryos to continue to be stored.

How much will storage cost?

Before you start treatment, or before your storage consent is due to be extended, you will be provided with information on storage fees, you will have to pay if you are not eligible for NHS fertility treatment and if you want to continue to store your eggs, sperm or embryos.

If you have more than one type of sample stored, you will have to pay a storage fee for each type of sample. For example, if you have embryos and sperm stored and you want both to continue to be stored, you will have to pay a storage fee for the embryos and a separate storage fee for the sperm.

How much notice will I have before I need to pay a storage fee?

You will be given 12 month notice before a storage fee needs to be paid.

Can I pay for more than one year of storage at a time?

Yes – you can choose to pay for up to 5 years of storage at a time. If you choose to pay for more than one year of storage the cost of annual storage is reduced. The cost is reduced because less administration resources are needed.

If you want to know more information about storage costs, ask your treating centre and a member of staff will be able to tell you.

If I have paid a storage fee and want to stop the storage of my eggs, sperm or embryos before the next storage fee is due, will I get a refund?

Unfortunately, no. Storage fees paid are not refundable.

What will happen if I do not want my eggs, sperm or embryos to continue to be stored?

You might have the option to donate your eggs, sperm or embryos for research or training or to another couple for treatment. If these choices are not right for you, you can also decide to allow your eggs, sperm or embryos to be removed from storage and allowed to perish.

If you are not sure, ask your treating centre and a member of staff will be able to provide information on all options and arrange counselling if you think it would be helpful.

What will happen if I do not pay the storage fee?

Storage centres will make every reasonable effort to contact you when a storage fee is due, using known contact details you have given the centre. If you do not pay the storage fee by the due date, then your eggs, sperm or embryos will be removed from storage and allowed to perish.

It is therefore very important that you make sure that your storage centre has your most up to date contact details so that they can contact you regarding your stored material.

If you have any concerns about payment of storage fees, contact your treating centre to discuss.

What will happen if the storage centre cannot get in contact with me to tell me that a storage fee is due to be paid?

Storage centres will make every reasonable effort to contact you when a storage fee is due and will use known contact details you have provided to the storage centre. It is your responsibility to ensure that the storage centre has up to date contact details. If you cannot be contacted by the date the storage fee is due to be paid, your eggs, sperm or embryos will be removed from storage and allowed to perish.

It is therefore very important that you make sure that your storage centre has your most up to date contact details so that they can contact you regarding your stored material.