



UZ

LEUVEN

GYNAECOLOGIE EN VERLOSKUNDE  
Leuvens universitair fertiliteitscentrum

[www.uzleuven.be/lufc](http://www.uzleuven.be/lufc) › tel. +32 16 343624

## INFORMATION CONCERNING FREEZING AND PRESERVATION OF UNFERTILISED EGGS WITHOUT MEDICAL REASON

Dear Madam,

This information is intended to explain the procedure for freezing and preservation of unfertilised eggs, so that you can consent in full knowledge of the facts.

You have discussed with your doctor the possibility of having unfertilised eggs frozen (vitrification) in order to prevent the age-related deterioration of the functioning of your ovaries.

The frozen unfertilised eggs can be thawed in the fertility lab. Eggs that have survived the freezing and thawing procedure can be fertilised with the (future) partner's or donor's sperm. Fertilisation will be achieved by injection of sperm directly into the egg (ICSI procedure). This technique may lead to fertilisation (and subsequently to parenthood), but this is not guaranteed.

The agreement with the Leuvens universitair fertiliteitscentrum (LUFC) regards the freezing and preservation of unfertilised eggs and does not include any obligation on either parties to start a treatment.

Before proceeding with freezing and preservation of unfertilised eggs aiming to meet the future desire of a child, you should sign an agreement in which you indicate the destination of the frozen unfertilised eggs, in keeping with the Law of 6 July 2007 on medically assisted reproduction and the use of supernumerary embryos and gametes.

In this agreement, you should indicate the destination of the frozen unfertilised eggs:

- When the stated storage period of the unfertilised eggs has expired.
- In the event that you will permanently be incapable of making decisions or in event of your death.

You have a choice between following destinations for the frozen unfertilised eggs:

- To relinquish the unfertilised eggs for scientific research (in accordance with the Law of 11 May 2003 on research on embryos in vitro);
- To destroy the unfertilised eggs;
- donation of the frozen eggs for the purpose of anonymous egg donation;

By law, the **storage period** for frozen unfertilised eggs is **ten years**. This period starts on the day on which the eggs are frozen.

On explicit request or in special circumstances, this period may be shortened or extended, although this must always be with the agreement of the LUFC. The LUFC may refuse a request to extend the storage period.

Within the agreed period, it is also possible to change the intended destination of the frozen unfertilised eggs in the original agreement, unless in the meantime the storage period for infertilised eggs has expired. This change of destination will be included in a new agreement signed by all parties.

A request to modify the agreement must be sent by letter to Leuvens universitair fertiliteitscentrum, contractenadministratie, UZ Leuven, Herestraat 49, 3000 Leuven or via [Mynexuzhealth](mailto:Mynexuzhealth).

On the expiry of the period, the LUFC will carry out your instructions given in this agreement.

The information relating to relinquishing the unfertilised eggs for scientific research and for anonymous egg donation can be found in the attached documents:

- [Information on relinquishing frozen unfertilised eggs for scientific research](#)
- [Information regarding the donation of frozen unfertilised eggs for the purpose of anonymous donation](#)



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## INFORMATION CONCERNING FREEZING AND PRESERVATION OF UNFERTILISED EGGS WITHOUT MEDICAL REASON

The freezing and storage of unfertilised eggs is labour-intensive and expensive for the LUFC. Therefore we will charge a fixed-fee during the statutory period of ten years. The fixed storage fee is € 951,37 for ten years. In addition, you will be charged for the management of your file (€ 113,59); freezing cost will be charged per egg frozen (€ 61,68 excluding VAT). The cost of thawing one egg each amounts to € 26,51 as of 1 January 2024. These amounts will be adjusted 1 January each year, in line with the Health Index (<http://statbel.fgov.be/nl/statistieken/cijfers/economie/consumptieprijzen/gezondheidsindex>) in the preceding December. If you no longer wish the unfertilised eggs to be stored, you should inform the LUFC of this by sending a letter to Leuvens universitair Fertiliteitscentrum, contractenadministratie, UZ Leuven, Herestraat 49, 3000 Leuven.

All these documents are intended for you. If you agree to this treatment, you should complete and sign the attached 'Agreement concerning freezing and preservation of unfertilised eggs without medical reason' and return it to LUFC, 'contractenadministratie', UZ Leuven, Herestraat 49, 3000 Leuven or via Mynexuzhealth.



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## INFORMATION ON RELINQUISHING FROZEN UNFERTILISED EGGS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Dear Madam,

This information is intended to explain what scientific research can be carried out with frozen unfertilised eggs that you no longer wish to store for yourself, so that you can consent in full knowledge of the facts for the option 'to relinquish frozen unfertilised eggs for scientific research' as destination of your frozen unfertilised eggs at the end of the storage period.

If this option has been chosen, the LUFC will have the opportunity to conduct scientific research into the development and application of new techniques in assisted reproductive technology. The use of frozen unfertilised eggs for such research is indispensable. This scientific research will be conducted by or in collaboration with the Leuvens universitair fertiliteitscentrum (LUFC) laboratory.

The following points are important:

- The confidentiality of names and other personal data will be strictly guaranteed.
- Any research protocol for which frozen unfertilised eggs may be used has first been approved by the Ethics Committee research of UZ Leuven and KU Leuven and by the Federal Commission for medical and scientific research on embryos in vitro.
- The scientific research is in accordance with the Law of 11 May 2003 on research on embryo in vitro.
- The scientific research relates to:
  - ◆ The development of new procedures for improving the IVF/ICSI and CRYO programmes.
- Participation in this study will not provide any financial advantages and will not bring any additional costs.
- You give permission for applications for possible patents for any inventions resulting from research to which you have explicitly consented and waive any claim for compensation on an informed basis.

If you would like more information about this, please contact the laboratory of the LUFC, Herestraat 49, 3000 Leuven (tel. +32 16 34 08 12 or via [Mynexuzhealth](mailto:Mynexuzhealth)).

You can withdraw your decision to allow your frozen unfertilised eggs to be used for scientific research up to the time the research begins. You should communicate your wish to withdraw your consent in writing to the LUFC laboratory, UZ Leuven, Herestraat 49, 3000 Leuven.



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## INFORMATION ON RELINQUISHING FROZEN UNFERTILISED EGGS FOR ANONYMOUS EGG DONATION

Dear Madam,

This information is intended to explain what the option 'to relinquish frozen eggs for anonymous egg donation' entails, so that you can make an informed decision on the destination of your frozen unfertilised eggs at the end of the storage period. The purpose of anonymous egg donation is to enable women with fertility problems to become pregnant.

Frozen eggs which you no longer wish to use for your own desire for a child can be donated anonymously to other women or couples who are experiencing fertility problems. The frozen eggs can be transferred for donation to an anonymous woman or receptor couple, if you are under 35 years of age at the time of freezing of these unfertilised eggs. If you wish to donate your eggs anonymously, you agree to undergo all examinations and to provide all necessary medical information, which will enable the LUFC to determine whether the donated eggs are healthy. You will be invited for a consultation with the fertility psychologist at the Leuvens universitair fertiliteitscentrum (LUFC) and at the Centre for human genetics at UZ Leuven. Genetic screening will be carried out, followed by one or more consultations with the fertility psychologist. The file is then discussed at the multidisciplinary staff meeting. In the event of final approval, you will be eligible for anonymous egg donation.

After final approval of the file at the multidisciplinary staff meeting and if the frozen eggs are to be donated anonymously, an agreement will be drawn up between LUFC and you as the donor. If the file is not approved, you will have to choose a different option for your frozen eggs (donation for scientific research or destruction of the unfertilised eggs). If you would like further information on this, your physician will be pleased to answer your questions.

The costs of the examinations required for anonymous egg donation will be charged to you via your patient invoice. If your file is given final approval from the multidisciplinary staff meeting, the costs will be reimbursed in a fixed-sum amount.

In principle, the donation of frozen unfertilised eggs is unconditional and irreversible. Among other things, this means that you relinquish all of your rights to the eggs and that you have no claim whatsoever to the child or children conceived with those eggs.

The anonymity of both the donor and the receptor(s) of the eggs is strictly guaranteed. The doctor will not disclose whether a successful pregnancy has followed from the donated eggs. As a donor, you agree not to trace the identity of the receptor(s).



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## AGREEMENT CONCERNING FREEZING AND PRESERVATION OF UNFERTILISED EGGS WITHOUT MEDICAL REASON

The Leuvens universitair fertiliteitscentrum,  
UZ Leuven,  
represented by  
Professor Karen Peeraer, coordinator  
Hereinafter 'the LUFUC', on the one hand,

 and Ms  
born on ..... / ..... / .....  
residing at .....  
.....  
Hereinafter the patient, on the other hand,

### The following has been agreed:

- The patient declares that she has received, read and understood the document 'Information concerning the freezing and preservation of unfertilised eggs without medical reason'. She consents to freezing and preservation of her unfertilised eggs by the LUFUC, with a view to fulfil a future desire to have children. She is aware of the implications of freezing and preservation of the unfertilised eggs and understands that the current scientific evidence clearly demonstrates that such preservation does not offer any guarantee with respect to successful thawing, maturation and fertilisation of eggs, pregnancy and a healthy child in the future. She is also aware of the major effect of her age on these steps.
- The LUFUC will take due care in the freezing and preservation of the unfertilised eggs. The LUFUC is not liable for the loss of preserved unfertilised eggs in cases of force majeure (such as fire, theft, power cuts or other external causes).
- By law, the storage period for unfertilised eggs frozen with a view to fulfilling a future desire to have children is ten years. This period starts on the day on which the unfertilised eggs are frozen. On the expiry of this period, the LUFUC will carry out the instructions given by the patient in this agreement.
- The patient consents that an amount of € 61,68 will be charged per frozen egg (excluding VAT) for freezing the unfertilised eggs. The cost of thawing one egg each amounts to € 26,51 as of 1 January 2024. These amounts will be adjusted 1 January each year in line with the Health Index (<http://statbel.fgov.be/nl/statistieken/cijfers/economie/consumentprijzen/gezondheidsindex>) in the preceding December.
- The patient consents to a fixed-charge of € 951,37 for storage of the unfertilized eggs for ten years (excluding VAT). This amount will be adjusted 1 January each year in line with the health index (<http://statbel.fgov.be/nl/statistieken/cijfers/economie/consumentprijzen/gezondheidsindex>) in the preceding December. If the patient no longer wishes the unfertilised eggs to be stored, she should inform the LUFUC of this by sending a letter to Leuvens universitair fertiliteitscentrum, contractenadministratie, UZ Leuven, Herestraat 49, 3000 Leuven or via Mynexuzhealth.
- The patient consents to a fixed-charge of € 113,59 (excluding VAT) for file management. This amount will be adjusted 1 January each year in line with the health index (<http://statbel.fgov.be/nl/statistieken/cijfers/economie/consumentprijzen/gezondheidsindex>) in the preceding December.



## AGREEMENT CONCERNING FREEZING AND PRESERVATION OF UNFERTILISED EGGS WITHOUT MEDICAL REASON

- On explicit request of the patient or in special circumstances, the period can be shortened or extended, although this must always be with the agreement of the LUFC. It is also possible to make changes to the original agreement regarding the intended destination of the unfertilised eggs, unless the storage period for the frozen unfertilised eggs has expired. A request by the patient to change the period or to modify the agreement must be sent by letter to Leuvens universitair fertiliteitscentrum, contractenadministratie, UZ Leuven, Herestraat 49, 3000 Leuven or via Mynexuzhealth.
  - ◆ The LUFC may refuse a request to extend the storage period. In this case, the instruction indicated by the patient in this agreement will be carried out.
- The patient declares that she has received sufficient explanation about the possible options for the destination of the frozen unfertilised eggs.
  - ◆ In the event of ‘[relinquishing frozen unfertilised eggs for scientific research](#)’, the patient expressly agrees to relinquish her frozen unfertilised eggs to the LUFC for scientific research that has been approved by the Ethics Committee research of UZ Leuven and KU Leuven and by the Federal Commission for medical and scientific research on embryos in vitro. This research is in accordance with the Law of 11 May 2003 on research on embryos in vitro. The patient declares that she has received, read and understood the ‘Information on relinquishing frozen unfertilised eggs for scientific research’.
  - ◆ In the event of ‘[destruction of the frozen unfertilised eggs](#)’ the LUFC will destroy the frozen unfertilised eggs without any interventions other than those necessary for destruction.
  - ◆ In the event of ‘[relinquishing frozen unfertilised eggs for anonymous egg donation](#)’ the patient explicitly agrees to relinquish her frozen unfertilised eggs to LUFC for the purpose of anonymous donation. The eggs may be transferred to an anonymous receptor or receptor couple. Eggs may be transferred for donation as long as the donor is aged under 35 years at the time of freezing. In selecting this option, the donor accepts that she will be invited for a consultation with the fertility psychologist at LUFC and at the centre for human genetics at UZ Leuven for a screening interview. The donor declares that she has received, read and understood the ‘Information on relinquishing frozen unfertilised eggs for anonymous egg donation’.



## AGREEMENT CONCERNING FREEZING AND PRESERVATION OF UNFERTILISED EGGS WITHOUT MEDICAL REASON

- The patient declares that she has not been at risk of infection with Zika virus, human T-lymphotropic virus (HTLV-I and II-) and Ebola virus in the past three months. In addition, the patient declares that she has not stayed in a risk area for West Nile virus or Dengue virus in the past 28 days. Finally, the patient declares that she has not been infected with Coronavirus or had symptoms, appropriate to COVID-19 infection, such as fever, cough, sore throat, loss of sense of smell and taste in the past four weeks.
  - ◆ If yes, please explain your answer:  
.....  
.....  
.....
- The patient declares that she will immediately inform the Leuven universitair fertiliteitscentrum if she becomes infected with Coronavirus and/or develops symptoms appropriate to COVID-19 infection in the two weeks following oocyte freezing.



Madam's initials



**AGREEMENT CONCERNING FREEZING AND PRESERVATION OF UNFERTILISED EGGS  
WITHOUT MEDICAL REASON**

- The patient declares that she has taken the following decision relating to the destination of her frozen unfertilised eggs. She wishes to:

**Destination of the frozen unfertilised eggs**

Indicate your decision under A, B and C:

A. On the expiry of the stated period (tick one box only):

- relinquish these eggs for scientific research\*
- destroy these eggs
- relinquish these eggs for anonymous donation\*\*

B. In the event that the patient is permanently incapable of making decisions (tick one box only):

- relinquish these eggs for scientific research\*
- destroy these eggs
- relinquish these eggs for anonymous donation\*\*


C. In the event that the patient passes away (tick one box only):

- relinquish these eggs for scientific research
- destroy these eggs.

\* If the eggs will not be suitable for scientific research or an abundant number of eggs will be available for scientific research, these eggs may not be used for scientific research purposes and may be discarded.

\*\* If the eggs are not eligible for donation or if this is no longer desired, then the patient wishes (choose one option):

- relinquish these eggs for scientific research\*
- destroy these eggs

Drawn up in duplicate in Leuven on  ...../...../....., one copy being intended for the LUFC and the other for the patient.

Naam of patient

.....

Born on...../...../.....

Professor Karen Peeraer

read and approved  
signature Ms.

Please complete and sign this agreement and return it to Leuvens universitair fertiliteitscentrum, contractenadministratie, UZ Leuven, Herestraat 49, 3000 Leuven or via [Mynexuzhealth](http://Mynexuzhealth).