

## CONSENT FOR SEMEN CRYOPRESERVATION, STORAGE AND THAW

### Procedure

The term “cryopresrvation” refers to the process by which cells or tissues are preserved by freezing. Prior to initiating an IVF treatment cycle it is North Hudson IVF Center’s policy to cryopreserve a semen specimen from the husband or intimate partner of the couple participating in the cycle. This semen specimen is cryopreserved with the express intention of providing a back up semen specimen that may be used in the event of an emergency on the day of the egg retrieval.

Prior to freezing, the sperm from a single ejaculate are concentrated into a small volume of specially formulated culture medium containing a cryoprotectant (glycerol). The sperm are then sealed in a small plastic vial. The temperature of the sperm is slowly reduced until near the freezing point and then dropped quickly to freeze the sperm. The frozen sperm are then stored in liquid nitrogen until needed.

If it is necessary to use the frozen semen specimen for IVF, the sperm would be thawed rapidly by placing the vial in warm water. The thawed sperm are then “washed” by diluting the cryoprotectant medium with regular culture medium followed by concentration the sperm by centrifugation. The washing process is repeated to ensure complete removal of the cryoprotectant medium. The washed sperm may then be used for IVF.

Sperm that have been cryopreserved and thawed usually exhibit decreased motility (fewer sperm are swimming strongly after thawing). In extreme cases, there may be insufficient motile sperm to achieve fertilization of the eggs through routine insemination. In this case, Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection would be employed to ensure adequate fertilization of the eggs.

The sperm will be stored at North Hudson IVF Center as long as the couple is actively participating in the IVF Program at North Hudson IVF Center. If the couple (1) becomes pregnant as a result of treatment, (2) ceases to participate in the North Hudson IVF Program, or (3) fails to instruct North Hudson IVF Center to act otherwise, it is the policy of North Hudson IVF Center to thaw the stored sperm and discard the sperm in an ethical manner six (6) months after the date of cryopreservation.

### Risks

1. There are currently no known medical risks associated with producing a semen specimen by masturbation.
2. As with any technique necessitating mechanical support systems, equipment failure can occur. North Hudson IVF Center, their directors, employees, or consultants are not to be held liable for any destruction, damage, or improper freezing, maintenance storage, withdrawal, thawing, and/or delivery caused by or resulting from any malfunction of the storage tank, failure of utilities, cessation of services or other labor disturbance, fire, wind, earthquake, flood, or the failure of any other laboratory.
3. For most individuals, approximately half of the sperm in the original ejaculate will not survive the cryopreservation and thawing procedures. However, some individuals have sperm that are particularly susceptible to damage incurred during cryopreservation and thawing. For these individuals, there is a small risk that all the sperm in the specimen will die from the cryopreservation and thawing process.

### Consent

I have read and understand the above information regarding cryopreservation, storage and thawing of semen. I have had an opportunity to ask questions and I am satisfied with the answers I received. I hereby consent to have my semen cryopreserved, stored and thawed according to the policies of North Hudson IVF Center set forth above.

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Patient Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date