

# Extended Storage



## Fertility Facts

- In 2004, legislation was introduced via the HART act regulating the length of time frozen eggs, sperm (gametes) and embryos, stored ovarian tissue and testicular tissue could be stored at a fertility clinic.
- The legislation allows for a ten year storage limit, with the opportunity of extension through an application to the Ethics Committee on Assisted Reproductive Technology (ECART).
- Update your contact details: We will endeavour to contact patients by letter, a year before their expiry date to explain the options available. Therefore, it is important that you keep us informed of any change to your contact details/address.
- This legislation applies to all patients – both publicly funded and private, including our international patients.
- The first expiry date for storage in New Zealand was 22/11/14.

REF 3186.23 – 03/15

## Applying for an extension

Should you wish to, you can apply for an extension to the storage time limit by following guidelines outlined below.

### There are several key points you need to be aware of:

- The HART Act allows frozen material to be stored for up to 10 years without restriction. If you would like to store material for longer than 10 years, you will need to obtain approval from the ECART. Applications must be received and considered by the ECART before the expiry date.
- The start date for storage of embryos that have involved sperm or eggs is the date the eggs or sperm were frozen. For example: If you had embryos created in 2010 using sperm frozen in 2008, the 10 year expiry date for the embryos would be in 2018.
- Patients may consider extending the storage of their material and in some circumstances may have the option of donating it. Embryos created using donated sperm or donated eggs may not be donated.
- Any extended storage is not publicly funded and will incur a cost.
- Applications to extend storage need to be made on the ECARTs 'Extending Storage Application Form' and by the patient themselves (or his or her representative), not by the clinic.
- The application form, information on how to apply and where to send your application is available on the ECART website [www.ecart.health.govt.nz](http://www.ecart.health.govt.nz). Your application must be sent to ECART. Clinics cannot accept applications.

- ECART uses guidelines created by the Advisory Committee on Assisted Reproductive Technology (ACART). ACART's guidelines on extended storage are available on their website.
- If extended storage is declined, you forget to apply OR the clinic can not locate you, your frozen sperm, eggs, embryos, testicular tissue and ovarian tissue will be disposed sometime after the expiry date.
- The clinic has up to six months to dispose of the material, but it cannot be used after the expiry date even if it has not yet been discarded.

Please note: You will only need to complete the ECART Extending Storage Application Form if you wish to extend the storage of your frozen material. If you wish to discard your frozen material, please contact the storage coordinator by emailing [extendedstorage@fertilityassociates.co.nz](mailto:extendedstorage@fertilityassociates.co.nz)

**If you have concerns about your frozen storage, you are welcome to discuss them with us by contacting our Extended Storage Coordinator on: [extendedstorage@fertilityassociates.co.nz](mailto:extendedstorage@fertilityassociates.co.nz)**

**Or call 0800 023 409**

Contact us

[www.fertilityassociates.co.nz](http://www.fertilityassociates.co.nz) | phone 0800 10 28 28



**FERTILITY** associates | *a better understanding*  
TE RAUHANGA O TE WHARETANGATA