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## Fertility Preservation (FP)

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Fertility Preservation is done when a patient is undergoing a medical treatment that would impair their future fertility. The common cause is a gonadotoxic treatment that harms gametes (sperm or eggs) such as chemotherapy for cancer or a surgical removal of reproductive organs such as gender affirmation surgery for transgender patients. There are many other examples of treatments which can have a negative impact on fertility.

FP can be done to cryopreserve/freeze either oocytes (eggs) or sperm for future use.

### **FUNDING PROGRAM**

The Ontario Ministry of Health offers one funded FP cycle per patient per lifetime. Patients must have a valid health card. There is no age restriction for FP.

The Ontario Fertility Program defines one FP cycle as the retrieval of one batch of oocytes and subsequent freezing of any oocytes recovered or one sperm freezing from an ejaculate or surgically retrieved sperm sample.

Once the physician has requested an FP cycle, your eligibility for the funding program will be determined. If you are eligible, you will be placed on the waitlist. The waitlist is managed in chronological order unless exceptional circumstances arise (e.g., oncology patient needing to start treatment immediately). When it is your turn to begin, all required testing and consents will be completed in preparation for the cycle and then proceed for treatment.

### **FEES**

If your cycle is funded by the Ministry of Health Fertility Program, this covers the standard laboratory fees associated with the cycle but there are additional costs not covered by the program, including annual storage and medication.

All cycle fees (except medication) are due at the beginning of your cycle. GFW does not offer a payment plan or installments. We are a no-cash facility; fees can be paid by debit, credit, or certified cheque.

Any questions regarding fees can be discussed with the nursing team or the Clinic Manager.

### **FUTURE USE**

At the time you are ready to begin expanding your family, the physician will meet with you and determine the best treatment options. This may include IVF depending on the type of FP performed (oocytes or sperm) and the quality/quantity of gametes that were preserved. The survivability of the gametes cannot be assessed until the time of a future thaw; it is possible no useable oocytes/sperm will be present after thaw.

**Please call the nursing staff at (519) 570-0090 x 226 if you have any questions.**