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Making parenthood possible
is Shady Grove Fertility's

Pride & Joy

Learn about SGF's personalized fertility and family-building treatment plans for LGBTQIA+ individuals and couples >



Shady Grove Fertility offers innovative fertility care for the LGBTQIA+ community in a friendly, compassionate, and inclusive environment.

Dedicated to helping lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual+ people realize their dream of parenthood, SGF offers a full range of services — from low-tech to highly advanced treatment — to help patients achieve successful outcomes.

Fertility options for lesbian couples or individuals

Couples with two egg-producing individuals and egg-producing individuals who would like to achieve pregnancy have two main treatment paths:

- Intrauterine insemination (IUI) with donor sperm, or
- In vitro fertilization (IVF) with donor sperm

IVF can be completed by pursuing either standard IVF or co-IVF (reciprocal IVF). With co-IVF, one partner provides the egg, and the other partner will carry the pregnancy. Our physicians work with patients to determine which treatments will best meet their fertility and family-building goals.

Fertility options for gay couples or individuals

Couples with two sperm providers and sperm-producing individuals who want to build a biological family typically pursue IVF with egg donation and gestational surrogacy.

At SGF, two sperm providers can also opt to use dual insemination wherein each partner provides sperm that can be used to create an embryo for transfer to a known or recruited gestational carrier to carry the pregnancy. In line with ASRM guidelines, only one embryo will be transferred, and any remaining embryos can be cryopreserved for later use.

The partner(s) wishing to use their sperm will undergo a semen analysis to test motility (movement), volume, concentration, and morphology (shape) of the sperm.

Fertility options for transgender and gender diverse couples or individuals

Transgender and gender diverse couples and individuals have a variety of options for fertility care depending on their unique situation.

The most common options include fertility preservation, IUI, IVF, donor egg, donor sperm, donor embryo, and working with a gestational carrier.

Third-party options and fertility preservation



Selecting a sperm donor

SGF works with certified sperm banks where non-identified donors are screened according to FDA guidelines.

After selection, the cryobank sends the frozen sperm sample directly to SGF. From there, patients will undergo an IUI or IVF cycle using the donated sperm.

If patients opt to use a known sperm donor such as a relative or friend, their care team will coordinate this process.



Selecting an egg donor

All of our donors have been through rigorous screening before they appear in our donor database. Patients may select a non-identified egg donor or a directed (known) egg donor.



Selecting a gestational carrier, agency, and attorney

Finding a gestational carrier is often one of the first steps for patients. Our medical team will refer patients to experienced and reputable attorneys and agencies to find a gestational carrier, a woman with no genetic tie with the child she is carrying. The average wait to be matched with a gestational carrier is around one year. All gestational carriers and intended parents must seek legal counsel, even when working with a friend or family member.

SGF is proud to partner with the Center for Surrogate Parenting and other surrogacy agencies to help intended parents build their families.



Fertility preservation

Egg, embryo, or sperm freezing can protect future family building options for LGBTQIA+ people - **ideally occurring prior to hormone therapy or surgery.**

82%
of patients
enrolled in SGF's
100% Refund Program
for IVF and donor egg
take home
a baby