



## ! Important to Know

- ◆ Posthumous sperm retrieval is a sensitive and complex process.
- ◆ Not all retrieved sperm may be viable for treatment.
- ◆ You are encouraged to allow yourself time to grieve and consider your options before starting treatment.
- ◆ Queensland Fertility Group will support you every step of the way, ensuring that all legislative and ethical requirements are met.

# Posthumous Sperm Retrieval

## Next Steps

If you are considering posthumous sperm retrieval or have recently lost your partner and wish to discuss this option:

- ◆ Contact Queensland Fertility Group on 1800 111 483
- ◆ Visit [www.qfg.com.au](http://www.qfg.com.au) for more information.
- ◆ Our team is here to guide and support you through this challenging time.

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## What is Posthumous Sperm Retrieval?

Posthumous Sperm Retrieval is a medical procedure that can be performed to collect sperm from someone who has passed away. This procedure gives their partner the potential opportunity to have children using Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART), such as IVF.

## Who Can Request This Procedure?

In Queensland, only a spouse or partner of the deceased person can request posthumous sperm retrieval. Specific legal requirements apply before sperm can be used in treatment.

## How Does It Work?

- ◆ The procedure involves a testicular biopsy, performed by a treating physician (such as a urologist or surgeon) in the hospital setting after death.
- ◆ During the biopsy, small samples of tissue are taken directly from the testicles, where sperm may still be present.
- ◆ A QFG embryologist will attend the procedure to assist and ensure appropriate handling of the tissue samples.
- ◆ After collection, the tissue is safely transported back to a QFG laboratory, where it is processed under specialised conditions to locate and isolate any viable sperm within the sample.
- ◆ If viable sperm are identified, they are then cryopreserved (frozen) at -196°C in liquid nitrogen storage to maintain their viability for potential future use in fertility treatment.

## Key Steps in the Process

### 1. Immediate Considerations

- ◆ If you wish to request posthumous sperm retrieval, you should contact your treating hospital team or Queensland Fertility Group as soon as possible after your partner's passing. Timing can affect the viability of the sperm retrieved with the ideal timeline for retrieval being no longer than 48 hours following their passing

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### 2. Consent and Legal Requirements

- ◆ Under Queensland law retrieval and use of sperm after death requires:
  - The deceased person's prior written consent for posthumous use OR
  - If no prior consent exists, next-of-kin consent (usually the spouse or partner) may be sought for retrieval, however, is subject to review and approval and retrieval is not guaranteed .

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### 3. Counselling and Support

- ◆ Before treatment can proceed, you will need to attend at least one counselling session with an ANZICA qualified Counsellor, as required by Queensland legislation.
- ◆ Counselling will help you:
  - Understand the legal, ethical, psychological, and social implications.
  - Prepare documents needed for your application.