

FERTILITY PRESERVATION FOR MEDICAL INDICATIONS

Fertility preservation is the process where eggs or sperm (gametes) are frozen (cryopreserved) to preserve them for an extended period of time. Freezing stops eggs or sperm from aging and allows them to be stored. The frozen eggs and sperm can be thawed later, even years later, so that people can use them to try to achieve pregnancy.



Is Fertility Preservation for Medical Indications a VA-Covered Benefit?

Yes, if your VA health care provider determines there is a medical indication, VA can cover the cost of retrieving and freezing your eggs or sperm to preserve your fertility. VA cannot cover creation and freezing (cryopreservation) of embryos (fertilized eggs) for fertility preservation. VA can only cover freezing of sperm or eggs for fertility preservation.

Being approved for fertility preservation for a medical indication does not mean you will be eligible for VA fertility benefits that cover assistive reproductive technologies (ART) like in-vitro fertilization in the future.

A medical indication for fertility preservation is a treatment that may make it harder for your ovaries or testes to work. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Veterans with cancer who will undergo cancer treatment that can affect their ovaries or testes
- Veterans who are undergoing gender-affirming care that can affect their ovaries or testes

VA does not cover fertility preservation without a medical indication. For example, VA does NOT cover fertility preservation for:

- A reduced number or quality of eggs due to aging
- After elective sterilization (e.g., vasectomy, tubal ligation/removal)
- Delayed childbearing

What if I Don't Have a Medical Indication for Fertility Preservation?

If you don't have a medical indication for fertility preservation, then you will be responsible for the costs of that care. VA will not pay for fertility preservation without a medical indication.



For additional information on VA Fertility Benefits, see the VA Fertility Benefits brochure and talk with your VA provider.

What Costs Does VA Cover for Fertility Preservation?

If you are eligible for fertility preservation for a medical reason, VA covers the cost of egg or sperm retrieval, freezing (cryopreservation), and storage for up to five years. If you have not used your eggs or sperm within five years, you will receive a notice of fees to continue the service. You are the full owner of your eggs or sperm.

What Costs Does VA Not Cover for Fertility Preservation?

- Cryopreservation storage if you transfer ownership of your eggs or sperm to someone else
- Transportation of cryopreserved eggs or sperm from one location to another
- Storage of cryopreserved eggs or sperm beyond 5 years

Whom Do I Talk to About Fertility Preservation?

Talk to your VA provider about your fertility preservation options. Together you can discuss your options and determine what may be covered by VA.

IB 10-1723 P97174 OCT 2023 10W