What is sperm banking?
Sperm banking is a process of freezing and storing sperm for future use. It is estimated that there are many thousands of children around the world who have been conceived by using frozen sperm.

Mount Sinai Hospital’s Sperm Bank was first established in 1978 and is presently under the direction of Dr. Greenblatt, Medical Director of the Centre for Fertility & Reproductive Health.

Why bank sperm?
There are many reasons to bank sperm:
1. Fertility preservation prior to cancer treatment, such as chemotherapy, radiation or surgery, which can be potentially sterilizing. For cancer patients, we strongly recommend sperm banking before your treatment begins.
2. Occupational hazards — some occupations may involve potentially high reproductive risks.
3. Prior to surgery or medication therapy which could potentially affect the quality of sperm.
4. Short-term banking:
   • Travelling
   • Difficulty producing a sperm sample for intrauterine insemination and/or in vitro fertilization (IVF)

How do I arrange an appointment?
You may make an appointment by contacting the Sperm Bank secretary at 416-586-4748, option #3, Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. or email us at spermbank.msh@sinaىhealthsystem.ca

The Secretary will be happy to answer any cost related queries.

If you are banking sperm prior to cancer treatment, please inform the secretary of the expected treatment date so we can schedule your appointments in a timely fashion.

How many appointments will I need?
For patients who are banking prior to cancer treatment, we recommend one appointment.

If another banking visit is recommended you will be notified.

It is recommended that you do not ejaculate or have intercourse for two to three days before banking. However, sometimes due to the urgency to start treatment, this may not be possible. In this case, we recommend banking your sperm regardless of the suggested period of abstinence.

The First Appointment
Please bring your OHIP card, as well as contact information of your referring family doctor/specialist and next of kin.

Allow roughly 1 to 1.5 hours for your initial appointment to:
• Complete documents
• Complete required blood work
• Provide a sperm sample
• Provide payment for service
• Visit with a registered nurse

What is the process?
The sperm sample is produced by masturbation and collected in a sterile container. On average about 30 per cent of the original sperm sample does not survive the freezing and thawing process. Techniques such as intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) may allow fertilization of eggs to occur even with a very small number of non-motile sperm after freezing and thawing.

A summary report of the banked sperm information will be sent to you. A nurse will be available to answer any questions you may have after you have completed your banking.

Complete confidentiality is maintained to protect your privacy.

Why do I require blood testing?
Mount Sinai Hospital adheres to the screening requirements recommended by the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine.

Mount Sinai Hospital’s Sperm Bank requires patients to be screened for HIV, HIV II, (immunity), hepatitis B, hepatitis C and VDRL at the time of banking.

Mount Sinai Fertility
Mount Sinai Fertility is part of the Women’s and Infants’ Health Program at Mount Sinai Hospital. We are a teaching Hospital affiliated with the University of Toronto and are committed to excellence in patient care, teaching and research. The Clinic provides care to individuals and couples seeking fertility, and offers treatments and investigations for a number of reproductive and hormonal issues.