

Special Testing Services

Requests for additional genetic testing, also known as “Special Testing,” on Gamete donors are frequently accommodated to help evaluate potential reproductive risks, if any, to donor-conceived persons (DCPs) based on the other Gamete source’s medical history or genetic test results. . Requests for non-clinical or DNA sample(s) from a Gamete donor for preimplantation genetic testing (PGT) may also be accommodated through our Special Testing Services. Before requesting any special testing, please be sure to review ALL the following information about the process. Doing so will help you to plan your treatment cycles accordingly and to better understand the limitations of this service.

1. Contact our Genetics Department at 877-743-6384 to learn more about the options available and the approximate cost of testing. You will be required to provide us with copies of any relevant medical records or genetic test reports, as applicable, so that we can understand the need for your request and/or review appropriate testing options for the donor based on the other gamete source’s results.
2. Contact your healthcare provider to discuss the testing options available and to determine which test for the donor is appropriate for your needs. We recommend that you meet with a genetic counselor to help you understand testing options in detail, including a discussion of the risks, benefits, and limitations of each test. You can locate a genetic counselor in your area at www.nsgc.org under the “Find a Counselor” link.
3. You (“Client”) and your healthcare provider (“Provider”) will be required to return completed test request forms to our genetics department to document the specific test requested, the donor to be tested, and to authorize payment for the special test expenses. Expenses may include laboratory fees, coordination expenses, donor compensation, phlebotomy, non-clinical or DNA vials, shipping, and other related expenses. A valid payment method must be listed on your account before we are able to proceed with the special test request. To add or update your payment and billing information, login to your California Cryobank account at <https://www.cryobank.com/>, and go to “Billing Information.” If there a default payment method is not selected, we will attempt to charge any valid card on file. **We cannot move forward with processing your special test request without a valid payment method on your account.**
4. If you are requesting a donor sample for preimplantation genetic testing (PGT) probe development, you will only need to complete the “Donor Sample for Preimplantation Genetic Testing” form. A “Provider” form is not needed for this type of Special Testing request. Please complete all fields on the “Donor Sample for Preimplantation Genetic Testing” form so one of our Reproductive Genetic Specialists can coordinate the shipment of a sample to the PGT laboratory. If the form is incomplete, or additional information is needed, it will delay the time it takes to coordinate the sample shipment. **PLEASE NOTE:** Donor samples are **not** provided and are **not** to be used by Client for research purposes or other embryo tests, including but not limited to PGT for polygenic disorders (PGT-P), embryo health scoring, and whole exome or genome sequencing (PGT-WES or PGT-WGS). Donor samples are only provided to CLIA and CAP accredited laboratories.
5. Your request will be reviewed by our Genetics Department to determine if the test is appropriate to perform on a donor. Consultation with the Medical Director, or designee, may be required in certain situations. If your request is approved, we may need to contact the donor to determine if the donor is willing and available to participate in testing. A new DNA sample may be needed from the donor if there are no samples available at the cryobank for testing. The donors are aware of, and frequently able to accommodate, these requests. However, you will be informed if the donor is unavailable or declines to participate. **We cannot guarantee that a donor will be available for a special test request regardless of whether you have ordered or used specimens from that donor.**
6. The amount of time it takes to complete special testing will vary greatly (from weeks to months), depending on the specific test, sample availability, and/or the availability of the donor. Once we know the donor’s availability, if any, and the time required for laboratory analysis for that test, we will provide you with an approximate date to expect the results. This will help you to confirm that the timing is suitable for your needs. California Cryobank **cannot guarantee that genetic test results will be available by a specific date or in time for a specific procedure, nor do we recommend you ship vials or start your reproductive treatments until after the test is completed.**
7. We strongly recommend that you order and store vials from your donor with California Cryobank BEFORE testing is performed. California Cryobank **cannot guarantee that vials will be available from the donor at the time that the special test is completed.**
8. If the donor’s special test result is positive or abnormal, and it’s determined that using that donor would mean there is an increased risk for that specific medical issue in the DCP, we can facilitate a vial exchange of that donor’s vials for vials of a different donor — **ONLY IF your donor’s vials are stored with California Cryobank.** The fee for the exchange will be waived, but you will be responsible for any differences in costs for the vials.
9. California Cryobank’s genetics department will inform you about the donor’s test results when testing has been completed. We recommend that you discuss the donor’s results with your personal healthcare provider to determine if that donor is appropriate for your needs.

Please contact our genetics department for additional assistance and information on special testing. Email:

genetics@cryobank.com

Phone: 877-743-6384

Fax: 888-317-4725

Office hours: 8:00 am through 5:00 pm, Pacific Time, Monday through Friday