



Frequently Asked Questions – Boston IVF LAB

1. **We are done with our Fertility Treatments but have embryos remaining, what disposition options are available?**

When the fertility treatment concludes, patients often have embryos that remain in storage. There are several options available to patients on how to handle these embryos:

Continue in Storage at Boston IVF: Patients are welcome to maintain embryos (or frozen gametes) in storage at Boston IVF as long as they wish. These are kept in alarmed liquid nitrogen storage under continued environmental monitoring. On-going storage fees are applied. It is the patient's responsibility to maintain updated records for changes, including but not limited to, changes in name, address, relationship status, and/or billing method on file.

Transport to outside facility Long Term Storage: Patients are welcome to move embryos to another facility specialized in long-term storage. Storage fees are assessed until the embryos have left Boston IVF. Contact transports@bostonivf.com for current transport consents or more information.

Donate to medical research: See FAQ #3 below

Donate to another couple: See FAQ #4 below

Compassionate Embryo Transfer: A compassionate transfer is a transfer done at a point in a woman's cycle when getting pregnant would be highly unlikely or embryos may be placed into the vagina, where they are not suited to implant. The idea is for the embryos to be placed in a natural environment for disposal. For more information or to review the fees for this service, contact your medical team.

Disposal/discard: Discard consents are available on the website on the patient portal under lab consents. Notarized signatures from both patients are required. Once received, billing will be notified of the postmark date or date of receipt (when postmark not available) as end of storage date. Embryos are removed from liquid nitrogen to the medical waste bin. Click here to access our forms - <https://bit.ly/2G9zvng>

Pick up for personal disposal: Occasionally, patients prefer to pick up their embryos to dispose on their own. This option will still require a notarized [discard consent](#) as with any embryo discard. However, the couple should choose option III in section II. They will need to schedule a time to present a valid, government-issued ID to pick up the devices that contain the embryos. Upon arrival, the embryos are removed from liquid nitrogen storage, placed into an envelope, and returned to the couple. Storage fees will continue until the embryos have been removed from Boston IVF. Unfortunately, Boston IVF cannot offer shipping of these embryos.

2. Can we donate unused embryos to research?

Boston IVF offers two separate “donation to research” options. The first is Option II on the embryo discard consent that allows Boston IVF to use your discarded embryos for in-house research, quality assurance, and training exercises. None of the embryos are used for the purpose of creating off-spring. If no such projects exist, they may be discarded following Boston IVF discard protocols.

Alternatively, there are sometimes IRB-approved medical research opportunities in which the embryos are donated to a specific project, such as stem-cell research. These projects require additional consents and may have inclusion or exclusion criteria for participation. If you are interested in one of these “donation to research” opportunities, please email transports@bostonivf.com for information and appropriate documents.

3. Can we donate unused embryos to another couple?

At the conclusion of fertility treatments, many patients consider donating their remaining embryos to another couple for use. While Boston IVF does not currently offer an in-house embryo donation program, there are programs available to which you may transport your embryos. Because these programs are not associated with Boston IVF, the only documents Boston IVF would need is a copy of a transport consent, notarized with signatures for both partners, indicating where they are going and by which medical courier, and a medical authorization form for the release of your medical records. Storage fees are applied until the embryos are removed from Boston IVF. For more information, contact transports@bostonivf.com.

4. We are having difficulty deciding how to handle our embryo disposition. Are there any resources available to us?

Boston IVF understands that the decision of how to handle your embryos after you have completed your fertility journey may be overwhelming. [The Domar Center](#) (located in our Waltham office) offers a free counsel session to discuss these complex issues. Contact the appointment desk at 781-434-4500.

5. We have moved to another area but have embryos in storage at Boston IVF. What options are available?

It is not unusual for patient to encounter the need to relocate to another geographic area during or after reproductive treatments. In these cases, Boston IVF will do our best to assist you in meeting your future needs. Some patient choose to continue to store embryos at Boston IVF and proceed with medical treatment using our long distance options, only returning to Boston IVF for the embryo transfer procedure.

However, you are more comfortable establishing care with a local facility, Boston IVF may release your embryos for transport to another location. You should consult your new facility for any instructions or courier requirements. Contact Boston IVF at transports@bostonivf.com to obtain more information and proper consents.

6. Does my partner need to sign the embryo discard consent?

Embryos belong to both partners, as described in the treatment booklet and treatment consents that were provided to you prior to any treatment cycles. As such, any use or change in status must be consented to by both partners. This is also true for donor gametes, such as donor eggs and donor sperm. However, autologous gametes (eggs or sperm that were directly from your own body) belong to you and do not require a partner signature on discard, transport, or thaw consents.

7. Does Boston IVF provide transport shipping containers for my reproductive tissues?

No. Boston IVF is unable to provide patients with the dry shipper container that is used for transport of reproductive tissues. It is requested that patients hire a specialized medical courier that will provide tank and transport services that may include monitoring of the tank's internal temperature throughout transport. Boston IVF does not recommend any specific company but you be able to provide a list of courier commonly used by our patients. For more information, contact transports@bostonivf.com

8. I am not ready to discontinue my embryo storage, but storage fees are more than I can handle. What options are available?

As a practice focused on reproductive care, Boston IVF understands the delicate nature involved with storing your embryos, but can appreciate the financial strain it may cause. Patients are welcome to transport their reproductive tissues to any long term storage facility they wish. These specialized storage facilities may offer long term storage services at a reduced price compared to storing as a fertility center, such as Boston IVF. While patients may choose any facility they wish, many of our patients opt for large facilities, such as California Cryobank, New England Cryogenic Center, or CryoPoint. You should contact these facilities, or any of your choosing, directly to find out more information specific to their program(s). Boston IVF may be contacted at transports@bostonivf.com for more information and to obtain a copy of the proper transport consent(s).