

Fertility Resources for Cancer Patients

CWRC IS A PARTNER
WITH FERTILE HOPE.



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS

www.columbiafertility.org

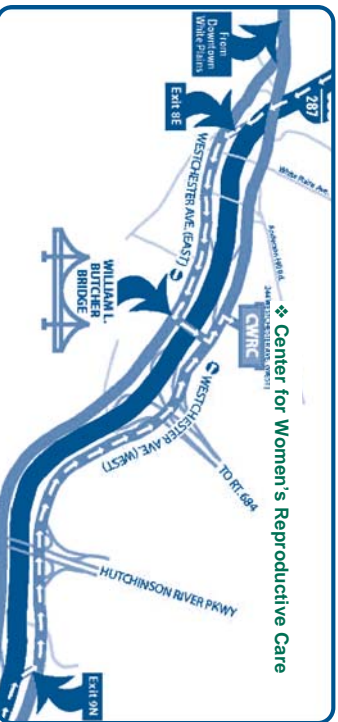
Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Division of Reproductive Endocrinology
Center for Women's Reproductive Care
at Columbia University
1790 Broadway @ 58th Street
New York, NY 10019
244 Westchester Avenue West
White Plains, NY 10604

Center for Women's Reproductive Care
at Columbia University
Comprehensive Fertility Treatment Center
Columbus Circle & White Plains

- Fertility Assessment • IVF • Donor Egg (No Wait)
- Male Infertility • Endoscopic Surgery

646-756-8282
www.columbiafertility.org

Insurance accepted upon verification:
United Healthcare, GHI, Oxford, Aetna / US
Healthcare, HealthNet, Cigna, Empire Blue
Cross / Blue Shield, UniCare, Pomco and HIP.
Patient financing also available.
Income-based financial support for IVF through
NYS Infertility Demonstration Program




COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
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Directions to the White Plains Office
244 Westchester Avenue West, Suite 209, 2nd Floor
White Plains, NY 10604 • 914-288-0408

Coming from the West:

- Take I-287E to Exit 8E onto Westchester Avenue East.
- Turn LEFT at the 3rd Bridge (William L. Butcher Bridge).
- Turn LEFT onto Westchester Avenue West.
- Building is immediately on right.

Coming from the East:

- Take I-287W to Exit 9N onto Westchester Avenue West.
- Follow PAST Hutchinson River Pkwy & Rt. 684).
- Building is 1.8 miles from Exit 9N on right.
- (Just past the William L. Butcher Bridge).

Manhattan Location: 1790 Broadway, 2nd Floor, NY, NY 10019
Phone: 646-756-8282 • **Fax:** 646-756-8280 • www.columbiafertility.org

INTRODUCTION

The Center for Women's Reproductive Care (CWRC) at Columbia University is a comprehensive infertility treatment center staffed by full time faculty of Columbia University. Physicians are certified in both the specialty of obstetrics/gynecology and the subspecialty of reproductive endocrinology. The Center is owned and operated by the Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons. It is one of the nation's oldest and largest providers of comprehensive infertility services, performing over 1,500 cycles of in vitro fertilization annually.

FERTILITY RISKS OF CANCER THERAPY

Cancer treatments such as chemotherapy, radiation and surgery can damage your reproductive system by causing infertility and premature ovarian failure. It is important to *ask your oncologist* about the impact of your cancer treatments on your long-term reproductive health as well as inquire about your fertility preservation and parenthood options.

CANCER AND FERTILITY PRESERVATION

There are two fertility preservation options offered at CWRC that you may want to consider before starting cancer treatments.

Embryo Freezing: Embryo freezing is the most successful fertility preservation option available for women today. The average success rates range from 25-50% per embryo transfer and thousands of babies have been born worldwide. The procedure takes approximately 2-6 weeks and requires that you have a male partner or use donor sperm. Your ovaries will be stimulated with fertility medications for several weeks and then mature eggs will be removed during a quick, outpatient minimally invasive procedure. In the lab, your eggs will be fertilized with your partner's or donor sperm and the resulting embryos will be frozen for future use.

Egg Freezing: Egg freezing is a new option for

women who do not have a male partner or chose not to use donor sperm. Egg freezing is relatively uncommon and only several hundred babies have been born worldwide. Similar to embryo freezing, the procedure takes approximately 2-6 weeks. Similar to embryo freezing your ovaries will be stimulated with fertility medications and then mature eggs will be removed during a quick, outpatient minimally invasive procedure. In the lab, your unfertilized eggs will be frozen for future use.

We strongly recommend that you review these options and their associated risks and timelines with your oncologist before moving forward.

HOW TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

We understand that time is of the essence. Accordingly, CWRC has established a cancer hotline staffed by trained social workers to help fast track your appointments:
(646) 756-3878 Monday - Friday 9AM - 5PM

WHAT TO HAVE READY FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT

In order to help expedite your care, please have the following ready when you call our hotline:

- Background information, including your diagnosis and treatment timeline.
- Name and contact information on your oncologist.
- Your preferred method of fertility preservation, or questions about the treatments to help you make a decision.
- Health insurance information.

This information will be reviewed with one of our physicians and administrative team, who will follow-up with you to schedule an appointment.

PAYING FOR YOUR CARE

Increasingly, managed healthcare insurance companies have been paying for infertility treatment. However, most insurance companies

are not currently reimbursing patients for fertility preservation. Several of the not-for-profit organizations including Fertile Hope are advocating for changes in health care insurance coverage to address this discrepancy.

In the meantime, CWRC is partnered with Fertile Hope to provide financial assistance through their "Sharing Hope" program. Fertile Hope is a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to providing reproductive information, support and hope to cancer patients whose medical treatments present the risk of infertility.

Fertile Hope approves patient for financial assistance based on the following criteria:

- US Citizen or permanent resident.
- Annual household income less than \$75,000 (single) or \$100,000 (married).
- Diagnosis of certain types of cancer.
- Oncology treatment plan presents a risk of infertility as determined by an oncologist.
- Individual has not yet started fertility-damaging cancer treatments.
- A medical determination by both the patient's oncologist and reproductive endocrinologist that the treatments and associated medications are medically appropriate.
- Uninsured or denied insurance coverage for the treatments and procedures required for egg and/or embryo freezing.
- Individual has not previously participated in the Sharing Hope program.

Applications and additional information about the program are available at www.fertilehope.org or by calling Fertile Hope directly at (888) 994-HOPE.

Patients who are not eligible for the Fertile Hope program may still be eligible for the discounted CWRC Preserving Fertility program, based on a sliding scale of annual household incomes up to \$200,000.