



Reproductive Medicine Associates of New York, LLP

Preparing for Your Initial Consultation

The team at Reproductive Medicine Associates of New York (RMA of New York) is dedicated to supporting our patients in all aspects of their care, including preparation for initial consultation. In the attached packet you will find the following information:

- i. **Initial consultation checklist** to help organize the paperwork and obtain any records that you may want to bring to your consultation (see below).
- ii. **RMA of New York Notice of Privacy Practices** (conforming to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) for your records.
- iii. **Patient demographic form** to complete and bring with you to your consultation.
- iv. **Patient consent for use of electronic mail** to review, sign, and bring to your consultation.
- v. **Family history and genetic questionnaire** to complete and bring to your consultation. Please complete as much as possible; any outstanding questions or clarifications can be reviewed with the physician and/or nurse during consultation.
- vi. **Patient acknowledgement of RMA of New York privacy policy** to complete and provide at your consultation.
- vii. **Patient fact sheet on genetic screening** from the American Society of Reproductive Medicine for your records.
- viii. **General information sheet about RMA of New York** for your records.

Initial Consultation Checklist

- Completed Patient Information form
- Completed Family History and Genetic Questionnaire form
- Completed Patient Consent for Use of Electronic Mail
- Completed Acknowledgement of Receipt of Privacy Practices
- Relevant medical records, including, but not limited to:
 - Hysterosalpingogram (HSG) films and interpretation
 - Results of previous semen analyses
 - Results of previous day 3 hormone testing
 - Information on any previous fertility treatments (injectable medications, IVF)
- Insurance card for self and partner, if applicable. RMA of New York will make a copy to keep on file
- Government issued photo ID – RMA of New York’s policy is to use your legal name for all records

Reproductive Medicine Associates of New York

Manhattan

635 Madison Avenue, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10022
(212) 756-5777

Westchester

15 North Broadway, Suite G
White Plains, NY 10601
(914) 997-6200

Long Island

400 Garden City Plaza, Suite 107
Garden City, NY 11530
(516) 746-3633

Mexico

ProL Reforma 1232, Oficina 1213
Lomas de Bezares
Mexico, DF 11910
011.52.55.2167.2515

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996

Notice of Privacy Practices

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

If you have any questions about this Notice, please contact our Privacy Officer at the number listed at the end of this Notice.

Each time you visit a healthcare provider, a record of your visit is made. Typically, this record contains your symptoms, examination and test results, diagnoses, treatment, a plan for future care or treatment, and billing-related information. This Notice applies to all of the records of your care generated by your health care provider.

Our Responsibilities

RMA of New York is required by law to maintain the privacy of your health information and to provide you with a description of our legal duties and privacy practices regarding your health information. The current Notice will be posted in the reception area. The notice will include the effective date. In addition, we will make our best effort to provide you with a copy of this notice that we request you acknowledge with your signature.

We are required by law to abide by the terms of this Notice and notify you if we make changes to this Notice, which may be at any time. Changes to the Notice will apply to your medical information that we already maintain as well as new information received after the change occurs. If we change our Notice, it will be posted in the reception area. You may also request that a revised Notice be sent to you in the mail or you may ask for one at your next appointment or appropriate visit. This Notice will also serve to advise you as to your rights with regard to your medical information.

How We May Use and Disclose Medical Information About You.

The following categories describe examples of the way we use and disclose medical information:

For Treatment: We may use medical information about you to provide, coordinate and manage your treatment or services. We may disclose medical information about you to other doctors, nurses, technicians (e.g. clinical laboratories or imaging companies), medical students, or other personnel who are involved in your care. We may communicate your information either orally or in writing by mail or facsimile.

We may also provide a subsequent healthcare provider with copies of various reports that should assist him or her in treating you. For example, your medical information may be provided to a physician to whom you have been referred so as to ensure that the physician has appropriate information regarding your previous treatment and diagnosis.

For Payment: We may use and disclose medical information about your treatment and services to bill and collect payment from you, your insurance company or a third party payer. For example, we may need to give your insurance company information before it approves or pays for the health care services we recommend for you.

For Health Care Operations: We may use or disclose, as needed, your health information in order to support our business activities. These activities may include, but are not limited to quality assessment activities, employee review activities, licensing, legal advice, accounting support, information systems support and conducting or arranging for other business activities. In addition, we may also call you by name in the waiting room when your physician is ready to see you. We may use or disclose your protected health information, as necessary, to contact you to remind you of your appointment by telephone or reminder card.

Business Associates: There are some services provided in our organization through contracts with business associates. Examples include billing, collections, software support and quality assurance. When these services are contracted, we may disclose your health information to our business associate so that they can perform the job that we have asked them to do and bill you or your third-party payer for services rendered. To protect your health information, however, we require the business associate to appropriately safeguard your information through a written contract.

Other Permitted and Required Uses and Disclosures That May Be Made With Your Consent, Authorization or Opportunity to Object

We also may use and disclose your health information as set forth below. You have the opportunity to agree or object to the use or disclosure of all or part of your health information in these instances. If you are not present or able to agree or object to the use or disclosure of the health information (such as in an emergency situation), then your clinician may, using professional judgment, determine whether the disclosure is in your best interest. In this case, only the information that is relevant to your health care will be disclosed.

Individuals Involved in Your Care or Payment for Your Care: Unless you object, we may release medical information about you to a friend or family member who is involved in your medical care or who helps to pay for your care. In addition, we may disclose medical information about you to an entity assisting in a disaster relief effort so that your family can be notified about your condition, status and location.

Future Communications: We may communicate to you via newsletters, mailings or other means regarding treatment options, information on health-related benefits or services; to

remind you that you have an appointment for medical care; or other community based initiatives or activities in which our facility is participating. If you are not interested in receiving these materials, please contact our Privacy Officer.

Other Permitted and Required Uses and Disclosures That May Be Made Without Your Authorization or Opportunity to Object

We may use or disclose your health information in the following situations without your authorization or without providing you with an opportunity to object. These situations include:

As required by law: We may use and disclose health information to the following types of entities, including but not limited to:

- Food and Drug Administration
- Public Health or Legal Authorities charged with preventing or controlling disease, injury or disability
- Correctional Institutions
- Workers Compensation Agents
- Organ and Tissue Donation Organizations
- Military Command Authorities
- Health Oversight Agencies
- Funeral Directors, Coroners and Medical Directors
- National Security and Intelligence Agencies
- Protective Services for the President and Others
- Authority that receives reports on abuse and neglect

Law Enforcement/Legal Proceedings: We may disclose health information for law enforcement purposes as required by law or in response to a valid subpoena.

State-Specific Requirements: Many states have requirements for reporting including population-based activities relating to improving health or reducing health care costs.

HITECH Reporting Requirements: Per the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act; a part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) of 2009; RMA of New York is required to, and abides by the requirement to, report suspected breaches of unsecured PHI to both the potentially affected individuals and the Secretary of the Health and Human Services Department.

Your Health Information Rights

Although your health record is the physical property of RMA of New York that compiled it, you have the right to:

Inspect and Copy: You have the right to inspect and copy medical information that may be used to make decisions about your care. We ask that you submit these requests in writing. Usually, this includes medical and billing records, but does not include psychotherapy notes or information compiled in reasonable anticipation of, or for use in, a civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding. We may deny your request to inspect and copy in certain very limited circumstances. If you are denied access to medical information, you may request that the denial be reviewed. The person conducting the review will not be the person who denied your request. We will comply with the outcome of the review. Requests for access to and copies of your medical information must be submitted to RMA of New York in writing. The practice may charge \$40 for additional requests for records after the first.

Amend: If you feel that medical information we have about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information by submitting a request in writing. You have the right to request an amendment for as long as we keep the information. We may deny your request for an amendment and if this occurs, you will be notified of the reason for the denial.

An Accounting of Disclosures: You have the right to request an accounting of our disclosures of medical information about you except for certain circumstances, including disclosures for treatment, payment, health care operations or where you specifically authorized a disclosure. RMA of New York will provide the first accounting to you in any 12-month period without charge. The cost for subsequent requests for an accounting within the 12-month period will be \$10.00. We ask that you submit these requests in writing.

Request Restrictions: You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the medical information we use or disclose about you for treatment, payment or health care operations. You also have the right to request a limit on the medical information we disclose about you to someone who is involved in your care or the payment for your care, like a family member or friend. For example, you could ask that we not use or disclose information about a procedure that you had. We ask that you submit these requests in writing.

We are not required to agree to your request. If we do agree, we will comply with your request unless the information is needed to provide you with emergency treatment.

Request Confidential Communications: You have the right to request that we communicate with you about medical matters in a certain way or at a certain location. We will agree to the request to the extent that it is reasonable for us to do so.

For example, you can ask that we use an alternative address for billing purposes. We ask that you submit these requests in writing.

A Paper Copy of This Notice: You have the right to a paper copy of this notice. You may ask us to give you a copy of this notice at any time. Even if you have agreed to receive this notice electronically, you are still entitled to a paper copy of this notice.

To exercise any of your rights, please obtain the required forms from the Privacy Officer and submit your request in writing.

Complaints

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with us by calling (212) 756-5777 and asking for the Privacy Officer or by contacting the Secretary of the Federal Department of Health and Human Services. All complaints must be also submitted in writing. You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.

Other Uses of Medical Information

Other uses and disclosures of medical information not covered by this Notice or the laws that apply to us will be made only with your written permission. If you provide us permission to use or disclose medical information about you, you may revoke that permission, in writing, at any time. If you revoke your permission, we will no longer use or disclose medical information about you for the reasons covered by your written authorization. However, we are unable to take back any disclosures we have already made with your permission and we are required to retain our records of the care that we provided to you.

Privacy Officer: Kaitlyn Murphy
Telephone Number: (212) 756-5777



Reproductive Medicine Associates of New York, LLP

*Please provide your legal name (i.e. full name as listed on your social security card, passport, or driver's license). RMA NY takes its responsibility of working with reproductive tissue seriously and therefore requires all files to be created under the patient's legal name. Please ask any member of our staff if you would like more information on this policy. Please bring a copy of a government issued photo ID to your consultation.

Patient Information section containing fields for Last Name, First Name, M.I., Address, City, State, Zip Code, Social Security #, Date of Birth, Age, Home #, Work #, Cell #, E-Mail, Marital Status, Dr. scheduled to see, Referred By, Telephone, Present Gynecologist, Address, Telephone, Fax, Cell/Work, Patient's Employer, Employer's Address, City, State, Zip, Occupation.

Patient Insurance section containing fields for Primary Insurance, Address, City, State, Zip, Telephone, Subscriber's Name, Employer, I.D #, Group #, Relationship to subscriber, Patient Name, as it appears on insurance card.

Spouse/ Partner section containing checkboxes for Spouse/Partner, Male/Female, Date of Birth, Social Security #, Last Name, First Name, M.I., Name of Employer, Employer's Address, State, Zip, Work Telephone, Occupation.

I authorize the undersigned physicians to release any information in the course of my examination or treatment. I further authorize any benefits due for services rendered to be paid directly to Reproductive Medicine Associates of NY, LLP, Alan B. Copperman, MD; Lawrence Grunfeld, MD; Tanmoy Mukherjee, MD; Benjamin Sandler, MD; Jeffrey Klein, MD; Eric Flisser, MD; Jane Ruman, MD; or Natan Bar-Chama, MD. I also understand that payment for services rendered is always due at time of service.

Signature _____ Date _____

For office use: (Obtain patient signature if information is updated without changes)

Signature _____ Date _____

Reproductive Medicine Associates of New York, LLP
Email Consent

Patient name _____
(First) (Last)

Patient SS# _____ -- _____ -- _____ Patient DOB _____ / _____ / _____
(MM) (DD) (YYYY)

1. RISK OF USING E-MAIL

Reproductive Medicine Associates of New York (RMA of New York) offers patients the opportunity to communicate by e-mail. Transmitting patient information by e-mail, however, has a number of risks that patients should consider before using e-mail. These include, but are not limited to, the following risks:

- a. E-mail can be circulated, forwarded, and stored in numerous paper and electronic files.
- b. E-mail can be immediately broadcast worldwide and be received by many intended and unintended recipients.
- c. E-mail senders can easily misaddress an e-mail, or e-mail may inadvertently be delivered to a spam folder or unintended mailbox.
- d. E-mail is easier to falsify than handwritten or signed documents.
- e. Backup copies of e-mail may exist even after the sender or the recipient has deleted his or her copy.
- f. Employers and on-line services have the right to archive and inspect e-mails transmitted through their systems.
- g. E-mail can be intercepted, altered, forwarded, or used without authorization or detection.
- h. E-mail can be used to introduce viruses into computer systems.
- i. E-mail can be used as evidence in court.

2. CONDITIONS FOR THE USE OF E-MAIL

RMA of New York will use reasonable means to protect the security and confidentiality of e-mail information sent and received. However, because of the risks outlined above, RMA of New York cannot guarantee the security and confidentiality of e-mail communication and, if you wish to use e-mail, you agree that RMA of New York will not be liable for improper disclosure of confidential information that is not caused by RMA of New York's intentional misconduct. Thus, the patients must consent to the use of e-mail includes agreement with the following conditions:

- a. RMA of New York will not forward e-mails to independent third parties without the patient's prior written consent, except as authorized or required by law.
- b. Although RMA of New York will endeavor to read and respond promptly to an e-mail from the patient, RMA of New York cannot guarantee that any particular e-mail will be read and responded to within any particular period of time. Thus, the patient shall not use e-mail for medical emergencies or other time sensitive matters.
- c. If the patient's e-mail requires or invites a response from RMA of New York staff and the patient has not received a response within a reasonable time period, it is the patient's responsibility to follow up to determine whether the intended recipient received the e-mail and when the recipient will respond.
- d. The patient should not use e-mail for communication regarding sensitive medical information, such as information regarding sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS/HIV, mental health, developmental disability, or substance abuse.
- e. The patient is responsible for protecting his/her password or other means of access to e-mail. RMA of New York is not liable for breaches of confidentiality caused by the patient or any third party.
- f. It is the patient's responsibility to follow up and/or schedule an appointment if warranted.

3. INSTRUCTIONS

To communicate by e-mail, the patient shall:

- a. Limit or avoid use of his/her employer's computer.
- b. Inform RMA of New York of changes in his/her e-mail address.
- c. Put the patient's name in the body of the e-mail.
- d. Include the category of the communication in the e-mail's subject line, for routing purposes (e.g., billing question).
- e. Review the e-mail to make sure it is clear and that all relevant information is provided before sending to RMA of New York.
- f. Take precautions to preserve the confidentiality of e-mail, such as using screen savers and safeguarding his/her computer password.
- g. Withdraw consent only via written communication to RMA of New York.

4. PATIENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT

I acknowledge that I have read and fully understand this consent form. (Please initial one option below):

I understand the risks associated with the communication of e-mail between RMA of New York and me, and consent to the conditions herein. In addition, I agree to the instructions outlined herein, as well as any other instructions that RMA of New York may impose to communicate with patients by e-mail. Any questions I may have had were answered. I have provided my email address below.

I do not consent to communicate with RMA of New York via email.

Patient signature _____

Date _____ / _____ / _____
(MM) (DD) (YYYY)

If agree to email communication, please provide:

Email: _____

@ _____

Witness signature _____

Date _____ / _____ / _____
(MM) (DD) (YYYY)

Family History and Genetic Questionnaire

Patient Name: _____ **Partner Name:** _____ **Date:** _____

Please answer the following medical history questions about yourself, your partner and your relatives. Please consider all family members related to you or your partner by blood including parents, grandparents, siblings, half-siblings, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and any children you have had together and/or with previous partners.

Have any of the following conditions occurred in your family? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check “yes” if the condition has occurred in you, your partner and/or any of your relatives. Leave blank if “no”. • Please specify how the person is related to you or your partner (for example, grandmother, aunt, son, etc) and any details you know about the condition. 	Female and her family members		Male and his family members		Please provide any details that you know about the condition (for example, age diagnosed)
	Yes ✓	Specify who in the family	Yes ✓	Specify who in the family	
Open spine defect (e.g. spina bifida, anencephaly)					
Heart defect					
Cleft lip and/or palate					
Other birth defects					
Chromosome condition (e.g. translocation carrier, Down syndrome)					
Blood disorder (e.g. sickle cell anemia, thalassemia, hemochromatosis)					
Bleeding disorder (e.g. hemophilia)					
Neuromuscular disease (e.g. muscular dystrophy)					
Cystic fibrosis					
Adult onset neurological disorder (e.g. Huntington disease)					
Fragile X syndrome					
Other inherited or genetic condition					
Mental retardation					
Development delay, autism or learning difficulties					
Relative who died suddenly before age 50 years (not from accident)					
Kidney disease at a young age (before age 40 years)					
Cancer (before age 50 years)					
Three or more miscarriages					
A still born baby or a baby that died within the first year					
Premature menopause (before age 40 years)					
Infertility					
Any other family history that is of concern? (Please specify below)					

****IF ALL RESPONSES ABOVE ARE ‘NO’ PLEASE INITIAL HERE _____ /NURSE/COORDINATOR INITIALS HERE _____

Genetic ethnicity for assessing the risk of inherited disorders:

FEMALE PARTNER

<p>Check all that apply to you:</p> <table><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Ashkenazi Jewish</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Native American</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Sephardic Jewish</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> African/ African American/ Caribbean</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Asian</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/ Latin American/ Caribbean</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> European</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> South Asian/ Indian Subcontinent</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> French Canadian</td><td></td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Middle Eastern</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Specify country (s) _____</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ashkenazi Jewish	<input type="checkbox"/> Native American	<input type="checkbox"/> Sephardic Jewish	<input type="checkbox"/> African/ African American/ Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/ Latin American/ Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> European	<input type="checkbox"/> South Asian/ Indian Subcontinent	<input type="checkbox"/> French Canadian		<input type="checkbox"/> Middle Eastern		<p>Check all that apply for any of your blood relatives (parents, grandparents):</p> <table><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Ashkenazi Jewish</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Native American</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Sephardic Jewish</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> African/ African American/ Caribbean</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Asian</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/ Latin American/ Caribbean</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> European</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> South Asian/ Indian Subcontinent</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> French Canadian</td><td></td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Middle Eastern</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Specify country (s) _____</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ashkenazi Jewish	<input type="checkbox"/> Native American	<input type="checkbox"/> Sephardic Jewish	<input type="checkbox"/> African/ African American/ Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/ Latin American/ Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> European	<input type="checkbox"/> South Asian/ Indian Subcontinent	<input type="checkbox"/> French Canadian		<input type="checkbox"/> Middle Eastern	
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MALE PARTNER

<p>Check all that apply to you:</p> <table><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Ashkenazi Jewish</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Native American</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Sephardic Jewish</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> African/ African American/ Caribbean</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Asian</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/ Latin American/ Caribbean</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> European</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> South Asian/ Indian Subcontinent</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> French Canadian</td><td></td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Middle Eastern</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Specify country (s) _____</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ashkenazi Jewish	<input type="checkbox"/> Native American	<input type="checkbox"/> Sephardic Jewish	<input type="checkbox"/> African/ African American/ Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/ Latin American/ Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> European	<input type="checkbox"/> South Asian/ Indian Subcontinent	<input type="checkbox"/> French Canadian		<input type="checkbox"/> Middle Eastern		<p>Check all that apply for any of your blood relatives (parents, grandparents):</p> <table><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Ashkenazi Jewish</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Native American</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Sephardic Jewish</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> African/ African American/ Caribbean</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Asian</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/ Latin American/ Caribbean</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> European</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> South Asian/ Indian Subcontinent</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> French Canadian</td><td></td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Middle Eastern</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Specify country (s) _____</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ashkenazi Jewish	<input type="checkbox"/> Native American	<input type="checkbox"/> Sephardic Jewish	<input type="checkbox"/> African/ African American/ Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/ Latin American/ Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> European	<input type="checkbox"/> South Asian/ Indian Subcontinent	<input type="checkbox"/> French Canadian		<input type="checkbox"/> Middle Eastern	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Middle Eastern																									

Are you and your partner related by blood? (Circle) Yes No Unsure

If yes, how are you related? _____

Have you or your partner had any genetic testing in the past? (circle) Yes No Unsure

If yes, can you obtain the records of the testing done? (circle) Yes No Unsure

Please provide any additional information you would like to share regarding your family history: _____



**PATIENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF
NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES FOR PROTECTED
HEALTH INFORMATION**

Date: _____

Signature of Patient or Representative

Patient's Name (Printed): _____

*Name of Personal Representative: _____
(Printed) (If Applicable)*

*Relationship to Patient: _____
(If Applicable)*



AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE

Formerly *The American Fertility Society*

1209 Montgomery Highway • Birmingham, Alabama 35216-2809 • TEL (205)978-5000 • FAX (205)978-5005 • E-MAIL asrm@asrm.org • URL www.asrm.org

PATIENT'S FACT SHEET

Genetic Screening for Birth Defects

Birth defects, which occur in nearly one in 20 pregnancies, range in severity from minor anatomic abnormalities to extensive genetic disorders or mental retardation. Some couples have a greater than average risk of having a child with a birth defect. Genetic screening may help identify couples at risk for certain genetic disorders but not all birth defects. Screening for genetic diseases that may affect offspring depends upon the racial or ethnic background of the couple, their family and medical history, and associated conditions. There is no single test that will detect the risk of any genetic disease in a couple's offspring. In addition, birth defects may occur that are not genetically based (e.g., environmental and toxic exposure, or random and unexplained) and may not be detected with genetic screening. Preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) is a technique that can be used during in vitro fertilization (IVF) procedures to test embryos for genetic disorders prior to their transfer to the uterus. PGD makes it possible for couples or individuals with serious inherited disorders to decrease the risk of passing the disorder to their child. This technique is controversial and raises issues of sex selection and genetic engineering. At present, PGD is only offered in a few centers, usually under the supervision of an institutional ethics review board, but its use may be more widespread in the near future. For more information on PGD, refer to the ASRM Fact Sheet titled *Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis*.

INDICATIONS FOR GENETIC SCREENING

ADVANCED MATERNAL AGE

Women over 35 have a higher risk of chromosomal problems and miscarriage. Prior to attempting pregnancy, women in this age group may wish to talk with their physician or a genetic counselor about their chances of having a child with a chromosomal problem, such as Down's syndrome, and the choices for prenatal genetic testing if pregnancy is achieved. Chorionic villus sampling and amniocentesis are two methods of prenatal testing. Many parents want to know this information so they can make informed decisions about the pregnancy.

RACIAL OR ETHNIC ASSOCIATIONS TO SPECIFIC DISEASES

- Sickle Cell Disease: Anyone with African-American ancestry should be screened via hemoglobin electrophoresis for carrier status of this disease, as one in 10 may be a carrier.
- Thalassemia: People of Mediterranean or Asian descent experience a high incidence of this disease. It is recommended that patients have a CBC with MCV to rule out the possibility of Thalassemia status. An MCV of <80 should be further evaluated by hemoglobin electrophoresis. About 3% of the world's population carry the β Thalassemia gene.
- Tay Sachs: This disease has a high incidence in Eastern European Jews and French Canadians.

FAMILIAL ASSOCIATIONS TO SPECIFIC DISEASES

A family history of any of the following genetic disorders should prompt genetic counseling and/or possible screening for carrier status:

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| • Down's syndrome | • Muscular Dystrophy | • Tay Sachs |
| • Other chromosomal abnormalities | • Neurofibromatosis | • Sickle Cell |
| • Unexplained stillbirths or neonatal deaths | • Cystic Fibrosis | • Seizures |
| • Huntington's disease | • Mental retardation | • Maternal exposure |
| • Hemophilia or other bleeding disorders | • Neural tube defects | • Multiple miscarriages |

MEDICAL HISTORY/CONDITIONS ASSOCIATED WITH GENETIC CONDITIONS

- About 7% of stillbirths and neonatal deaths have chromosomal abnormalities, compared with 0.5% of all newborns.
- Recurrent miscarriages may be due to genetic abnormalities.
- Congenital absence of vas deferens (absence of the two muscular tubes that carry sperm from the epididymis to the urethra) is associated with Cystic Fibrosis. Carrier status should be determined.
- Azoospermia/Oligospermia (absence of sperm in semen) has been associated with sex chromosome abnormalities and deletions within the Y chromosome. A karyotype may be helpful in selected cases.



Welcome to Reproductive Medicine Associates of New York, LLP (RMA of New York). We are pleased that you have chosen to seek consultation or care with our highly committed team of physicians, clinical staff and support staff. RMA of New York is a partnership founded in 2001 by physicians Alan Copperman, M.D.; Lawrence Grunfeld, M.D.; Tanmoy Mukherjee, M.D.; Benjamin Sandler, M.D; and Richard Scott, M.D., HCLD. RMA of New York has expanded significantly over the years and is proud to offer patient care through eight physicians at locations in Midtown Manhattan, Westchester, Long Island and Mexico City, Mexico.

RMA of New York physician staff is board certified and/or board eligible in their field of specialty. Curriculum vitae for the physician team is available on our website at www.rmany.com and by choosing "Our Team." RMA of New York is established as a group practice whereby all physicians of the same specialty will perform patient examinations and procedures for any patient. While your RMA of New York physician will always try to perform your examination or procedure, operating as a group practice allows RMA of New York to be staffed 364 days per year and provide each patient with the care that is timed to maximize the opportunity for success. If your treatment includes a procedure performed at RMA of New York that requires anesthesia, an anesthesiologist who is Board Certified and licensed in the State of New York will be used.

Many treatment plans at RMA of New York can require frequent monitoring and interaction with both the physicians and the highly experienced nursing staff. All nursing staff is licensed as Registered Nurses (RN) or Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) and is also licensed in the State of New York. The Nurse Practitioner staff is also licensed in the State of New York.

The entire RMA of New York team is committed to delivering on our mission of combining medical excellence with compassionate, individualized care. If you have any feedback or concerns regarding your experience at RMA of New York, you may speak to any one of our staff members or supervisors.

Reproductive Medicine Associates of New York, LLP

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