



## PGD: A PHYSICIAN'S GUIDE

*Updated January 2016*

### PATIENT REFERRAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Send referral information or PGD requisition form to RGI prior to the start of an IVF cycle. Our coordinator Aanchal Bhojwani (abhojwani@rgipgd.com / 847-400-1070) will contact the patient for a consultation.
  - a. For all patients undergoing **single gene or translocation/inversion testing we will need copies of all genetic testing reports/karyotypes** to determine feasibility and costs **prior** to the consultation. These reports can be faxed to 847-400-1516 or emailed to info@rgipgd.com.
2. One of RGI's Board Certified Genetic Counselors will review the PGD process during a phone consultation or in-person consultation with the couple and will coordinate the necessary paperwork/samples to get started.
  - a. Patients undergoing single gene testing will receive a **DNA Collection Kit within 1-2 weeks of the consult** with all necessary materials for PGD setup. If deemed necessary by our lab, a kit may be sent for patients undergoing translocation/inversion testing. This will be determined during the review of reports.
  - b. PGD Setups for single gene cases take **3-6 weeks** for common conditions, or **up to 8 weeks** for complex cases. Setup cannot be started until RGI has received the setup fee, consents and necessary DNA samples. Setup for translocation/inversion cases take **3-5 weeks**, though a setup for such cases is not typically required.
  - c. The patient should **NOT** start IVF stimulation medications until the PGD setup is complete. RGI will contact the IVF center (and the patient) once the PGD setup is complete.
3. It is the IVF center and patient's responsibility to keep RGI informed of medication start dates such as stimulation start dates and hCG administration.
4. RGI will collect PGD fees and required forms with patient prior to the egg retrieval date and coordinate PGD testing as appropriate. This includes HIPAA form, **notarized** consent forms and financial agreements.
5. \*ICSI is **REQUIRED** for all single gene and microarray cases and is recommended but not required for FISH cases.
6. The **PGD Requisition form** must be completed by the IVF center once the patient has been calendared for her cycle. Please email this form to info@rgipgd.com or fax to 847-400-1516. It is between the patient and IVF physician to decide which type of biopsy and PGD testing plan is appropriate for the patient.

**7. Please update RGI by email/phone/using the PGD requisition form (Section 4):**

- a. When the patient begins **stimulation** medications.
- b. When the patient receives their **trigger shot**/when embryo retrieval is confirmed.
  - i. We will send a biopsy kit to the IVF lab, which includes pre-loaded buffer tubes, based on the dates provided on the requisition form.
  - ii. **Please note:** we can only send overnight buffer kits Monday-Thursday. If the biopsy is planned Friday-Sunday, please inform us prior to 2pm on Thursday.
- c. When biopsy samples have been shipped please provide a tracking number for the **shipment**.
  - i. **Please note:** Biopsies for frozen cases can be stored in a -20° Celsius freezer over the weekend, and should be shipped for a **weekday arrival** at RGI.
  - ii. Samples for fresh transfers will be accepted 7 days a week.

**8. Results timeline:**

- a. If a Day 5/6 blastocyst/trophectoderm biopsy is done, the embryos will be frozen and RGI will report the final results **7-10 business days** after receipt of samples.
- b. If blastomere biopsy is being performed, embryo transfer will be scheduled for Day 5. \*Please schedule the transfer time as late as possible on Day 5 to allow RGI ample time to complete the PGD testing. Results are typically reported after **11am Central Time on Day 5**. Samples must be received by 6 pm Day 3 to accommodate a transfer time before noon. Otherwise, the transfer will be late Day 5 or early Day 6.

**\*\*Please contact a RGI genetic counselor if you have ANY questions about any of the above procedures at [info@rgipgd.com](mailto:info@rgipgd.com) or 847-400-1515. We are happy to assist in any way possible in order to make PGD a smooth process for your IVF center and our mutual patients.**

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

**Q: What if there is an urgent matter regarding a patient over the weekend of after regular business hours?**

**A:** You may contact the on-call genetic counselor at 773-851-5774.

**Q: What if the embryologist has questions about biopsy?**

**A:** Please contact our embryologist, Yuri Ilkevitch. He can be reached at 773-851-4445.

**Q: Will my patient or patient's family need to undergo any testing before starting the PGD set-up?**

**A:** For any single gene or translocation testing, we need a report with a documented mutation or rearrangement. If the patient has only been diagnosed clinically, we will need them to undergo genetic testing unless otherwise specified during the inquiry and consult. For some single gene cases (ex. Fragile X syndrome) we may need to have other family members undergo genetic testing. We will inform the patient of any such requirements during the inquiry and/or consult.

**Q: Is my center responsible for coordinating any part of the PGD set-up process (for single gene cases or rearrangements that require set-up)?**

**A:** We typically will coordinate directly with the patient and will send the DNA Collection Kit for set-up directly to them. They may find it much easier to coordinate a blood draw through your office and contact you to set this up. We provide FedEx packing for easy shipping back to us. If you prefer the kit to be sent directly to you, please let us know but we are happy to coordinate all of the consents, samples and payment/insurance authorizations with the patient.

**Q: What is your batching protocol?**

**A:** We prefer that biopsy samples be batched at your facility until they are ready to undergo testing. If you do not have a -70° C freezer to store these samples in, we can hold samples and the patient will be responsible for a \$500 storage fee (per batch). Please contact RGI to ask about our batching rules.

**Q: Who is responsible for shipping biopsy samples to RGI?**

**A:** We typically request that the IVF center coordinate shipping and we do not have a preferred courier. Fresh transfers must be shipped same day delivery and frozen transfers can be shipped either same day or next day delivery Monday through Thursday. Please do not send frozen cases on Friday or over the weekend. Any single gene and/or aCGH cases should be on dry ice or cold packs. FISH cases should be sent room temperature.

**Q: Is a Day 6 transfer possible for Day 5 biopsies?**

**A:** We can only offer Day 6 transfers for local centers because we must receive the samples by 11 am on Day 5. All non-local centers must do a Day 5/6 biopsy and freeze all.

**Q: What follow-up information do you need once results are sent?**

**A:** For fresh transfer, please let us know which embryos were transferred and which were frozen. For any frozen transfers, please let us know the date of the FET and which embryos were transferred and which remain frozen. For all transfers, please keep us updated with the results of the initial pregnancy test and whether the pregnancy is confirmed by ultrasound.

**Q: Will you be billing the patient directly for PGD services?**

**A:** Yes, we will bill the patient directly and work with them to obtain insurance authorization for our services if desired/possible. If you would like to set up a direct billing for your center, we would be happy to discuss pricing based on desired testing and volume. Please contact RGI to discuss this.