

## News Release

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## **Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, Launches Fertility Benefits Program for Employees**

- **Company will provide financial support to employees by covering costs for fertility treatments**
- **New program to start in eight markets in Europe, Asia, and Latin America**
- **Offer applies not only to company employees, but also to their partners**

Darmstadt, Germany, September 13, 2023 – Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, is launching a comprehensive Fertility Benefit program in October 2023 that will offer employees financial support for fertility treatments. The program will be launched in eight markets: Germany, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, China, India, Taiwan, Brazil, and Mexico. To date, the company offers similar benefits to employees in the United States, Canada, and Japan. An expansion of the offering to employees in further countries is planned to start next year.

“As a long-time leader and pioneer in fertility, we understand the tremendous emotional and financial burden infertility can have on individuals and families. We are delighted that through our Fertility Benefit program, we can support our employees as they strive to fulfill their dream of parenthood. This is one example of how our company prioritizes employee well-being and fosters a culture where all can belong, grow, and thrive,” said Belén Garijo, Chair of the Executive Board and CEO of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany.



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The new Fertility Benefit offer applies to employees of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, irrespective of their marital status, and is also open to their partners. A range of services, such as fertility tests, in vitro fertilization treatments, and hormonal treatments, can be covered.<sup>1</sup> Apart from financial assistance, the company offers employees facing infertility issues additional information services related to fertility disorders.

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, has many decades of experience in the field of fertility medicine. Today the company is the global market leader in therapies for fertility treatment. According to current estimates, more than five million babies have been born with the help of its products. This number represents about half of all babies born through medically assisted reproduction since the birth of the first baby conceived through in vitro fertilization in 1978.<sup>2</sup>

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### **About Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany**

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, operates across life science, healthcare and electronics. More than 64,000 employees work to make a positive difference to millions of people's lives every day by creating more joyful and sustainable ways to live. From providing products and services that accelerate drug development and manufacturing as well as discovering unique ways to treat the most challenging diseases to enabling the intelligence of devices – the company is everywhere. In 2022, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, generated sales of € 22.2 billion in 66 countries.

The company holds the global rights to the name and trademark "Merck" internationally. The only exceptions are the United States and Canada, where the business sectors of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, operate as MilliporeSigma in life science, EMD Serono in healthcare and EMD Electronics in electronics. Since its founding in 1668, scientific exploration and responsible entrepreneurship have been key to the company's technological and scientific advances. To this day, the founding family remains the majority owner of the publicly listed company.

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<sup>1</sup> The precise details of the program and the associated reimbursement rules may differ based on applicable local laws and regulations. The program generally does not cover adoptions or surrogate motherhood.

<sup>2</sup> Sources: <https://www.mdpi.com/1422-0067/23/12/6762>, <https://www.eshre.eu/Europe/Factsheets-and-infographics>