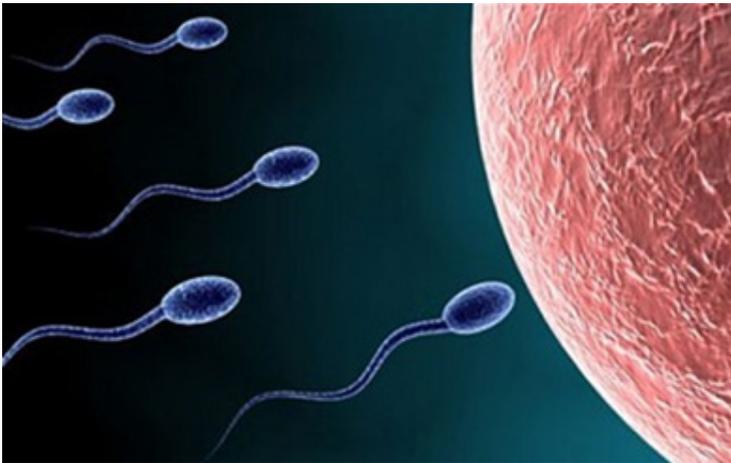


Department of Andrology Clinical Laboratory Medicine



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Instruction for the collection of semen samples for Andrology

Introduction for Fertility samples

A semen analysis is usually advised if a couple is having difficulty conceiving (becoming pregnant). Primary infertility is an extremely common problem, affecting more than one in seven couples attempting their first pregnancy. Among those experiencing difficulty with conception, a male fertility problem is considered important in around 40% of couples.

The results provide information about:

Volume - How much semen is produced (average greater than 2ml)

Count - How many sperm are present per millilitre of semen

Motility - How many sperm are motile and how quickly they are moving

Morphology - How many are of normal shape and size

Other - The results will also note pH, if the semen is unusually thick (viscous), if there is a tendency for the sperm to stick together (agglutination) or if there are any other significant cells present.

Introduction for Post Vasectomy samples

A one hour post vasectomy semen analysis will be required approximately 12 weeks post operation with a minimum of at least 20 ejaculations (unless otherwise directed from your referring consultant).

The semen will be analysed for any moving sperm, as any still present in your semen can result in pregnancy. Use contraception until the doctor who performed your vasectomy operation informs you that your post vasectomy semen sample is clear.

Your referring doctor will be notified with the results within 7 days of receipt of the specimen.

Arranging a Semen analysis for Andrology

Your GP or clinician will send an electronic request to our department for an appointment to be made for you to attend the clinic at Burnley General Teaching Hospital (BGTH). If the appointed time is not convenient please telephone 01254 734380 to re-arrange the appointment.

Your clinician will also give you a red pack that will contain a pre-weighed specimen pot. Please do not use any other container other than the one supplied in your pack as some plastics are toxic to sperm.

Using a different container will result in the specimen being rejected and a repeat appointment upon request of your referring clinician.

Replacement pots can be collected from your GP surgery or Andrology department at Burnley General Teaching Hospital (please call the department on 01282 805409 to arrange collection of a pack).

If you arrive in the department without an appointment your specimen will be rejected.

You can collect your sample at home, but if you live more than 1 hour from Burnley General Hospital you can request the use of a private room within the Andrology department to produce your sample.

Please ring 01254 734380 or 01282 805409 to book the use of the room.

You will be allocated a 20 minute time slot to produce your sample and must arrive 10 minutes before your appointment stated on your letter.

Please note under the 1999 Sexual offences Act it is illegal to produce a sample in a public place.

Instructions for collecting the semen sample

To ensure you produce the best specimen, there should be a period without sexual activity before the specimen is produced.

- Sexual activity can occur up to 7 days before your appointment, so that old or dead sperm are not ejaculated
- Cannot occur less than 2 days before your appointment as you may produce immature sperm and have low numbers

For example if you have an appointment on the 12 January you can only have sexual activity on the ✓ not ✗ days.

January						
				✗	✗	✗
✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
✗	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Before producing the sample on your appointment day; pass urine, then clean hands and genitals with soap and water.

Masturbate into the pot provided, ensuring you collect all the sample especially the first sperm rich portion. Do not use condoms as they will kill the sperm. Do not collect your sample by interrupted intercourse as this will contaminate the sample.

Your sample will be around a teaspoon of fluid. Secure the lid.

Complete the tear-off portion of this leaflet and label the container with your name and DOB. Bring the information and your sample to your appointment.

The specimen must reach the Andrology department within 1 hour of producing it.

Delivery of your sample

Any delay could affect the nature of the specimen and your result. A repeat sample may be necessary if these guidelines are not followed.

When transporting the specimen, place the container upright and close to your body to it keep warm, take it directly to the Andrology Department:

Suite 3, Old Outpatient Department,
Area 1, Level 2,
Burnley General Teaching Hospital,
Casterton Avenue,
Burnley,
BB10 2PQ.

Please do not deliver samples to the Pathology department at Burnley General or Royal Blackburn Teaching Hospitals.

(We are NOT open Saturday, Sunday or bank holidays on either site).

Results

If you have been referred by your GP, your results will be sent to them within 7 calendar days from receipt. Please contact your doctor's surgery to arrange this appointment.

If you have been referred by a hospital doctor, they will write to you with an appointment where they will discuss your results.
Results are not available from the laboratory.

Why would a repeat test be needed?

Guidelines that are not followed or borderline result often trigger the need for a repeat sample. Your requesting doctor will request the department of Andrology to send you an appointment for a repeat test.

Quality of Our Service

The Andrology department is a UKAS accredited laboratory. The laboratory participates in external quality assurance (UKNEQAS) and internal quality assurance is monitored. All tests carried out are in accordance with ABA guidelines and WHO (World Health Organisation) guidelines (2010).

All specimens will be tested by State Registered Biomedical Scientists who are regularly competency assessed.

Personal information will be kept in line with Caldicott and Trust Information Governance protocols.

No Smoking Policy

The NHS has a responsibility for the nation's health. Please protect yourself, patients, visitors and staff by adhering to our no smoking policy. Smoking is not permitted within any of our hospital buildings or grounds.

Questions and Queries

If you have questions regarding your sample, please ring the laboratory on 01282 805409.

Should you have any concerns regarding the service or any aspect of your care please speak to the Senior Biomedical Scientist, or if you prefer, the Patient Advice Liaison Service (PALS).

If you have any comments please email Tina.berry@elht.nhs.uk or would like to feed back about the service please complete the Andrology Service survey which can be found on the at www.elht.nhs.uk/services/clinical-laboratory-medicine-pathology and click on the Andrology Patient feedback service.

Specimen Collection/delivery information slip

Please complete the following information and bring to the department with your sample.

Fertility test/Post vasectomy test (please delete as appropriate)

Patient name*

D.O.B*

Time specimen produced into container.....*

Date delivered to laboratory.....*

Number of days since last ejaculation/sexual intercourse.....*

Was the entire specimen collected into the container i.e. no spillage?.....*

Any medication and or illness
.....

Any other information
.....

Name of person of delivering specimen to department
.....

*Compulsory information needed, failure to complete will result in specimen rejection

After testing, your remaining specimen may be used for quality checks, audit purposes or teaching.

Please sign beneath if you consent to your specimen being used:

I(your name) consent to my sample being used for training or Quality control purposes.

If you require this document in an alternative format or language, please contact: 01282 805409

Polish

W celu otrzymania tego dokumentu w innym formacie lub języku, prosimy o kontakt z

Urdu

اگر آپ کو اس دستاویز کی ایک متبادل شکل (فارمیٹ) یا زبان میں ضرورت ہے تو براہ مہربانی رابطہ کریں

Bengali

আপনি যদি এই প্রচারপত্রটি অথবা অন্য কোনো আকার বা অথবা ভাষায় চান, তাহলে ক্যাগারযোগ করুন

Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de acest document într-un format sau limbă alternativă, vă rugăm să contactați

Lithuanian

Norint gauti šį dokumentą kitu formatu ar kita kalba, prašome susisiekti su mumis

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