



Histopathology Department

Semen Analysis Instructions for Fertility & Post Vasectomy Specimens

This information sheet has been written to guide patients who have been asked to submit specimens for the following semen analysis:

- **Fertility Analysis** – a request for such samples can come from GPs and the Fertility Clinic at Dorset County Hospital
- **Post Vasectomy Analysis** – specimens are to be produced a minimum of **16 weeks** after the vasectomy procedure; two consecutive negative tests must be submitted before a patient is released from analysis

NB: There must be **two to four weeks gap** between each consecutive specimen submission to allow the spermatozoa to clear from the body. Any samples being submitted more frequently than every two weeks may not be processed by the laboratory

Semen Delivery Appointment System:

- Please arrange an appointment with the laboratory at least two days in advance for all semen sample deliveries
- Please phone the laboratory on **01305 254308** and speak to a member of laboratory staff who will be able to allocate you a delivery time during the available laboratory opening hours:

8:00am – 12:30pm
Monday – Thursday, closed Bank Holidays

Specimen Production:

- Semen samples should be produced after a period of sexual abstinence for a minimum of two days but not longer than seven days. You should not have passed urine during the previous hour
- Unfortunately there are no facilities at Dorset County Hospital for specimen production; please produce all specimens before travelling to the hospital
- The specimen must be obtained by hand (masturbation) directly into a blue-topped fertility pot or a sterile white-topped universal specimen container marked with the brand name MSL or RBI. Specimens **must** be collected in these specific containers. Failure to do so will result in the specimen being rejected and a repeat requested due to other containers having a possible toxic effect on the semen. These suitable

containers can be obtained from your GP surgery or the Dorset County Hospital Fertility Department on 01305 254141

- The whole specimen **must** be collected, especially the first few drops
- Please **do not** use a condom as a method of collection

Delivery of the Specimen to the Laboratory:

- The specimen must be delivered to the pathology laboratory, address below, within **60 minutes** of production and must be kept at **body temperature** during transportation e.g. in a trouser pocket. Samples arriving in hospital transport **will not be analysed**

**Andrology Department
Department of Pathology (Third floor)
North Wing Entrance One
Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Williams Avenue
Dorchester
DT1 2JY**

- Please ensure that the lid of the container is screwed on tightly and that the **pot** and **request form** are clearly labelled with: **full name / date of birth / date & time of specimen production**
- On arrival at the Pathology Department on level 3, please ring bell 9 to speak to the secretarial staff who will notify the Cytology/Andrology department immediately. A member of laboratory staff will collect the specimen from you and ask you to complete a short questionnaire to aid the specimen analysis. Should you have any problems or concerns in answering these questions, the member of staff will be happy to advise you in a discreet manner

Important

A copy of this information sheet is given to all patients prior to semen sample submission.

Please ensure that you deliver the **labelled specimen pot** with a completed **request form**. If the request form or pot label is not completed / available, or the sample is delivered **out of laboratory hours**, the department **will not analyse the specimen** and the specimen will need to be repeated.

Further Information

Laboratory staff are available to advise patients on specimen production and delivery on the Andrology Department telephone number: 01305 254308.

All results for fertility analysis and post vasectomy analysis will not be given to patients directly from the laboratory. Patients must make an appointment with the GP / Consultant who requested the test in order to obtain results and further advice.

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References:

World Health Organisation Department of Reproductive Health and Research. 2010. *WHO laboratory manual for the examination and processing of human semen*: Fifth Edition [Online]. WHO Press: Geneva. Available from <http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/infertility/9789241547789/en/> (Accessed 1 August 2017)

If you have feedback regarding the accuracy of the information contained in this leaflet, please email pals@dchft.nhs.uk.



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