



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 specimens 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 specimens being submitted more frequently than every two weeks may not be processed by the laboratory.

- **Blood in Semen** – an appointment for delivery is not necessary; these specimens can be delivered during the laboratory working hours indicated below.

Semen Delivery Appointment System:

- Please arrange an appointment with the laboratory at least **two weeks** in advance for Fertility and Post Vasectomy semen specimen 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 appointment during the available laboratory opening hours:

8:00am – 12:30pm

Monday – Thursday, closed Fridays & Bank Holidays

- The laboratory staff will then send a specimen pack to your GP surgery containing this information sheet, a pre-approved specimen pot and details of your delivery appointment.

Specimen Production and Collection:

- Unfortunately there are no facilities at Dorset County Hospital for specimen production; please produce all specimens at home before travelling to the hospital; please be aware that it is a criminal act to produce semen in a public place.
- Semen specimens should be produced after a period of sexual abstinence of at least two days (48 hours), but no longer than seven days. You should not have passed urine during the previous hour.

- The specimen must be obtained by masturbation (manual hand stimulation) directly into the approved specimen pot distributed from the laboratory. Patients with difficulties producing semen in this manner are advised to contact the laboratory to discuss suitable alternatives.
- Condoms must **NOT** be used for collection. They contain substances which will kill the sperm. Please do not use any gels, lubricants or oils, as this will also affect the results. Withdrawal method (coitus interruptus) is also not advised for collecting the specimen.
- It is essential that the whole ejaculate (discharge of semen) is collected, as the first part is often the richest in sperm numbers. Laboratory staff will ask you to confirm if any of the ejaculate was not collected.
- Please use the sterile pot provided for you (60ml MSL, CE marked specimen pot certified as being non-cytotoxic to sperm). No other specimen pot will be accepted by the laboratory.
- Do not open the pot until you are ready to produce the specimen and seal the pot immediately after specimen collection with the lid; making sure that the lid is on tightly.
- Ensure your name, date of birth plus date and time of specimen production is written on the **pot label** and place the pot into the sealable bag provided.
- Please ensure that your name, date of birth and address on the **request form** are correct and add the date and time of specimen production in the relevant box.

Delivery of the Specimen to the Laboratory:

- Please deliver the specimen and request form at your appointed time to the pathology laboratory, address below. This must be within **60 minutes** of production and must be kept at **body temperature** during transportation e.g. in a trouser pocket. Specimens arriving through the hospital transport **will not be analysed**.

Andrology Department
Department of Pathology (Level 3)
North Wing Entrance One
Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Williams Avenue
Dorchester
DT1 2JY

- On arrival at the Pathology Department, please ring intercom 9 to speak to the secretarial staff who will notify the 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 private area of the laboratory.
- You **MUST** hand your specimen directly to a member of the **Andrology** staff.
DO NOT leave it without seeing someone first.

- Unlabelled specimens, those without a request form and those delivered outside of laboratory opening hours will **NOT** be processed, requiring the specimen to be **repeated**.

Important

A copy of this information sheet is included in the specimen pack sent to all patients via their GP surgery prior to semen specimen submission; it is the responsibility of the requesting clinician to provide the patient with a **specimen request form**; either a printed ICE form (preferred method) or hand written Histology request form.

Further Information

We hope that you have found this information useful. If you have any questions or are worried about anything, laboratory staff are available to distribute specimen packs and advise patients on specimen production and delivery on the Andrology Department telephone number: **01305 254308**.

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.

About this leaflet:

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If you have feedback regarding the accuracy of the information contained in this leaflet, or if you would like a list of references used to develop this leaflet, please email pals@dchft.nhs.uk



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