

Patient Information Leaflet

Collection and delivery of samples for

Infertility Semen Analysis

What is the test for?

An infertility semen analysis is a test to look at the total number of sperm in an ejaculate (the count), how the sperm swim and in which direction (motility test) and their size and shape (morphology analysis).

How to collect the sample

Your GP or clinic will ask you to produce a semen sample for analysis. You will be given a sample container and a pathology request form or letter to take to the laboratory. Please make sure you take the request form/letter with your sample otherwise the laboratory cannot accept it.

Collect your semen sample after a minimum of 48 hours, but no longer than seven days of sexual abstinence.

The sample should be produced by masturbation and ejaculated directly into the plastic container provided for you by your GP or clinic. Do not collect the sample into a condom. The laboratory cannot examine ejaculates in condoms as this will affect the results of the test.

The total sample must be collected. If the total sample is not collected please state this on the laboratory request form/letter.

Screw the lid onto the container tightly so that the specimen does not leak. The laboratory cannot accept leaking samples.

Ensure that the container is labelled with your full name and date of birth. Write the date and time of passing the sample onto the container. The laboratory cannot accept unlabelled or incorrectly labelled samples.

Ensure the pathology request form/letter has your name (in full), date of birth, address and postcode and your GP/clinic details. Add the date and time of collection, and the number of days of sexual abstinence onto the pathology request form/letter.

Deliver the sample to the laboratory within 1 hour of collection. If you cannot deliver the sample within 1 hour, a clinic room is available to enable you to pass the sample at the Cumberland Infirmary. This room is available Friday morning by appointment only. Please contact the laboratory on 01228 814536 to make an appointment.

If you are delivering the sample in person, keep the sample warm (20 -40°) and protect from extreme temperatures. Carrying it in an inside pocket of your jacket will keep it in good condition.

Where to take the sample

The laboratory reception is located on the lower ground floor of the Cumberland Infirmary. Hand in your sample and request form directly to the receptionist.

Samples may be delivered during the following times:

Days of the week (except Bank Holidays)

Times

**Monday to Thursday
Friday**

**8:30 – 14:30
by appointment only**

If you are unable to make any of these times, please contact the department directly on 01228 814536 to arrange a suitable appointment.

When will you get your results?

Your results will be reported to your GP/clinic. Please allow at least two weeks before returning for your results. Laboratory staff are not permitted to give results to patients. If you are anxious please contact your GP or clinic.

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