

West Cumberland Hospital

DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY

HAEMATOLOGY

SEMEN ANALYSIS INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

As requests for semen analysis are time consuming to perform we can only analyse these by **strict appointment** from 09:00am to 11:30hrs Monday to Friday

1. Prior to production of the semen sample, you must refrain from intercourse/masturbation for a minimum of 2 days and a maximum of 6 days.
2. You have the option of **either**:-
 - i) Producing the sample at home **BUT** the sample must reach the lab **within 45 minutes** of production. If this is impossible then option ii is necessary.
 - ii.) Producing the sample in a private room in the laboratory with or without your partner.
3. Whichever option you choose **you must telephone** the Haematology department and make an appointment to attend the laboratory or to deliver your sample. You may phone between 09:00-17:00hrs Mon-Fri. (01946 523434)

SPECIMENS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PRIOR APPOINTMENT

4. If you elect to produce the sample at home please make sure that you:-

Obtain a wide rimmed sterile plastic specimen container, specimen bag with completed request form, absorbant pad and an identity form from your Doctor.

You must also be hygienic, washing hands and genital area beforehand.

Ordinary condoms should not be used as they contain spermicide that will kill the sperm.

- Samples should be produced by masturbation into the sterile pot provided.
- Use only the container provided or recommended by the GP practice or Laboratory and ensure it is labelled with your full name, date of birth, date/time of production. The laboratory will not accept unlabelled or incorrectly labeled specimens.
- Withdrawal (coitus interruptus) is not recommended for collecting the sample.
- Lid of container **must be securely fastened**, sample placed into the request bag **with an absorbent pad** and sealed. **Leaking samples will not be processed.**
- Warm the container to body temperature before producing the sample and maintain it at this temperature in the plastic bag during your journey to the laboratory (keep sample close to your body)
- Make sure the specimen cap is screwed tight.

The result of the analysis will be returned to your Doctor within 2-4 days.

The Haematology Department can be found within Pathology, follow signs for Pathology reception from the Out -Patient Department or on the 4th floor via Main reception. An identity form will have to be filled in before leaving.