

Information for patients and carers

Semen Analysis

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PLEASE READ THIS LEAFLET AT LEAST 7 DAYS BEFORE YOUR SPECIMEN SUBMISSION APPOINTMENT

You have been asked to submit a specimen for semen analysis. This may be as part of fertility investigations or following a vasectomy procedure.

The specimens are tested by specially trained Andrology staff in the Microbiology Department at the Royal Preston Hospital.

To ensure an accurate result it is important that the following instructions are followed to obtain an optimal semen specimen:

- Abstain from intercourse/ejaculation for a period of 2-7 days before the specimen is produced to allow the sperm to reach maturity
- A complete specimen is essential. The first part of your specimen contains most of the sperm. Please inform the laboratory staff if your specimen is not complete
- Please use the specimen container provided
- Condoms/sheath/lubricant must not be used for collection as they are toxic to sperm

The specimen **MUST** be received in the laboratory within 1 hour of collection.

Before collecting your specimen

- You **MUST** book a specimen submission appointment by contacting the Microbiology Department at the Royal Preston Hospital **01772 522104**
- The use of pre-arranged submission appointments ensures a member of staff is available to check your details and then process the sample in the appropriate timeframe

- Your doctor will supply you with an appropriate specimen container, this **MUST** be used. Ensure the pot is clearly labelled with your full name, your date of birth and time of specimen collection
- Post vasectomy samples must be submitted at least 12 weeks after the procedure and after a minimum of 20 ejaculations

Your doctor will also supply you with a laboratory request form, which should be handed in with your specimen. Your full name, date of birth, NHS number and the name of your requesting doctor **MUST** be present on the form.

How to book a specimen submission appointment

Contact the Microbiology Department on **01772 522104** to arrange an appointment at least 2 weeks before the intended day of sample production.

Appointments are available Monday - Friday between 09:30 and 15:30

Please inform the laboratory as soon as possible if you cannot attend the appointment.

Please attend at Pathology Reception (Entrance via Gordon Hesling Building), Royal Preston Hospital, Sharoe Green Lane, Preston, PR2 9HT

Site map available online at:

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/map/

On-site car parking is available and is free for 30 minutes.

How to collect your specimen

- Ensure the sample is produced no longer than 1 hour prior to your appointment; a delay in transit of over 1 hour can affect the validity of the results and may result in the need to submit further samples
- Wash your hands and genitals with soap and water, rinse thoroughly to remove all soap residues and dry thoroughly
- Your specimen must be collected by masturbation only. The whole ejaculate must be collected in the container provided
- Ensure the container lid is tight; if the specimen leaks the test cannot be performed
- Place your specimen in the specimen bag attached to your request form and seal
- Keep your specimen at body temperature (in a pocket for example) before your specimen submission appointment
- **Please note – there are no facilities to collect your specimen at the laboratory; you are not legally permitted to use a public toilet to collect your specimen.**

How and when to deliver your specimen

Ensure you bring the following to your appointment:

- Your specimen in the labelled container provided
- The completed request form supplied by your doctor

Please report to Pathology reception at the Royal Preston Hospital at your appointment time and inform them you are here to submit a sample for Andrology. A member of staff will then ensure all the required information is present.

Failure to comply with the above conditions may lead to incorrect results or rejection of the specimen.

How do I receive my results?

- The report will be sent to your surgeon or doctor, usually within two weeks. Please note a 'fast track' or 'urgent' service is not available
- For confidentiality reasons we do not discuss samples or give results out over the phone, any request will be politely declined
- If you require any further help or advice, please contact your doctor

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact Department of Microbiology on telephone: **01772 522104**.

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

www.patient.co.uk

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www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals is a smoke-free site. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on any of our premises, either inside or outside the buildings. Our staff will ask you about your smoking status when you come to hospital and will offer you support and advice about stopping smoking this will include Nicotine Replacement Therapy to help manage your symptoms of withdrawal and the opportunity to speak to a nurse or advisor from the specialist Tobacco and Alcohol Care Team.

If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone **08081962638**.

Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.

This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.

Our patient information group review our new leaflets regularly, if you feel you would like to feedback on this information or join our reading group please contact on email address:

patientexperienceandinvolve@LTHTR.nhs.uk

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