

## How and when to deliver your specimen

Ensure you bring the following to your appointment:

- Your specimen in the pre-weighed labelled container.
- The completed request form supplied by your doctor.
- The completed specimen detail sticker.

**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. For confidentiality reasons we never give results out over the phone, any request will be politely declined.
- If you require any further help or advice, please contact your doctor.

## How to book a specimen submission appointment

Contact the Andrology/Microbiology Department to arrange or change an appointment at least 1 week before the intended day of sample production.

Please inform the laboratory if you cannot attend the appointment.

Laboratory opening hours:  
Monday to Friday 09:00 – 16:30  
Saturday & Sunday Closed

Phone number – 01772 522104

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

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/](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/map/)

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## Semen Analysis

Andrology Team

Microbiology

Royal Preston Hospital

## 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 infertility investigations or following a vasectomy procedure.

The specimens are tested according to World Health Organization (WHO) standards and the Association of British Andrologists (ABA) guidelines 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. The longer the abstinence, the better the quality of specimen.
- 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.
- Specimen containers other than the one provided may be toxic to sperm and should not be used.
- 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 a pre-weighed non-toxic sterile specimen pot, 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 and a specimen detail sticker. These 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 collect your specimen

- Please wash your hands and genitals with soap and water, rinse thoroughly to remove all soap residues and dry thoroughly.
- Please ensure the sample is produced no longer than 1 hour prior to your appointment. A delay in transit over 1 hour can affect the validity of the results.
- A fresh specimen is essential for all seminal analysis investigations.
- 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.**