

Semen Analysis for Male Infertility

Couples who have been unsuccessful in conceiving after a year of trying are entitled to have investigation of infertility by the NHS. Semen analysis for men investigates the concentration of sperm, their motility (how fast they swim) and their morphology (what they look like). All of these aspects can affect a man's fertility.

Why am I having this test done?

Your doctor has requested this test to investigate your fertility. This test can also be used for men who have had a private vasectomy reversal operation.

Do I need an appointment?

Yes, semen analysis can only be performed on samples that have been booked with the laboratory. Your appointment can be booked in 2 ways:

➤ [Via Choose and Book](#)

Your General Practitioner (GP) can make an appointment for you whilst you are with them via choose and book. They will give you a specific date and time for your appointment.

They will also provide you with a *sample pot* (pot with yellow lid) and this *information sheet*, which includes the *request form*. The request form must be retained as this is needed by the laboratory when you bring in your sample.

OR

➤ [By contacting the hospital yourself to make the appointment.](#)

Please telephone the Appointments Call Centre on [01733 673555](tel:01733673555). You will then be given an appointment date and time (between 9.00am – 11am, slots are in half hour intervals) **Wednesdays to Fridays only**.

What happens if I need to change my appointment?

➤ For bookings by Choose and Book

If you subsequently find that you are unable to bring your sample on the appointed day or if you no longer need to bring in a sample for analysis, please contact the Choose and Book appointments line on 0845 60 88888 (you will need your booking reference number and password) .

➤ For bookings by the Appointments line

Please contact the appointments call centre on [01733 673555](tel:01733673555)

What if I miss my appointment or bring my sample on the wrong day?

Samples must be tested as soon as possible after they are produced. If you bring your sample on the **wrong day** or at the **wrong time** it may not be possible for it to be tested. It will be up to the laboratory to decide whether the test can take place. If the testing cannot be done, another appointment will need to be booked (please ensure the sample requirements are followed if re-booking within a week, see below). An additional sample pot can be collected from your GP or from Pathology at PCH.

What must I do before producing my sample?

Please follow these simple rules during the **7 days** before you produce your sample:

- Please have sex and ejaculate (come) at least once during the 7 days before you produce your sample BUT...
- **Do not** take part in any sexual activity during the 2 days before you produce the sample for testing.

How do I produce my sample?

There is NO facility to produce your sample on-site at PCH; this must be done at home.

The sample should be produced by **hand stimulation** (masturbation), directly into the specimen container specifically provided for semen collection (**N.B. Only the yellow-lidded, wide-aperture sample pots provided by the hospital are suitable for collection – these are obtainable via your GP/clinic**). It is important that **the entire** sample is collected into the container. This is because a semen sample is quite small and sperm are not evenly distributed throughout the ejaculate. If you think that some of the sample missed the container, please indicate on the form overleaf that the sample was not complete

Samples must be produced as close to the time of your appointment and **must be within 1 hour before** your appointment.

Do NOT

- Obtain samples by withdrawal during sexual intercourse (coitus interruptus). These samples are **not** suitable.
- Use a condom or any form of lubrication during the collection of the sample as this will significantly affect the results of the tests.

Where do I take the collection?

Samples must be delivered to: General Outpatients, Peterborough City Hospital (telephone extension 3555) where it will be sent straight to Pathology.

The general outpatients department is accessible only via the main hospital entrance.

The specimen should reach the Pathology Laboratory as soon as possible after collection. It must be less than one hour old and must not be exposed to extremes of temperature.

Please ensure that:

- The lid is firmly sealed
- You have written your name, date of birth, the date and time of the collection on the specimen pot.
- You have completed section 2 of the request form from your doctor.
- The completed form is handed in with the sample pot.

What happens if I don't complete the information on the collection pot, or don't send an accompanying request form?

If the information on the sample or the form is not complete you may be asked by the reception desk for this information. Lack of information could cause significant delays in the processing of your sample, and you may be asked to repeat the collection, so please follow the instructions above.

How will I get my results?

All results will be sent to your doctor. Please contact them for the results. For more information on this test, please contact your doctor, or the Clinical Biochemistry and Immunology Department at Peterborough City Hospital, Telephone: 01733 678454



Peterborough City Hospital, Edith Cavell Campus, Bretton Gate, Peterborough, PE3 9GZ. Tel: 01733 678000

Reference number: CS/137
Clinical Business Unit: Cancer & Diagnostics
Department: Clinical Biochemistry, Andrology and Immunology
Author: Matt Quemby (Specialist Biomedical Scientist)
Edition 6.
Review date: June 2016

Semen Analysis for the Investigation of Infertility

Drop sample off at General Outpatients 01733 67 3555

Section 1 – To be completed by Primary Care

Please tick appropriate category			Vasectomy reversal <input type="checkbox"/> Post vasectomy reversal samples part of private post vasectomy reversal treatment and the patient will be charged for this service
NHS <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Patient <input type="checkbox"/>	Subfertility <input type="checkbox"/>	

Male NHS number	
Male Surname	
Male forename	
Male date of birth	
Male hospital number (if applicable)	
Requesting Doctor	
Surgery name and address	
Female surname	
Female forename	
Female date of birth	
Home address (including postcode)	

Section 2 – to be completed by the patient

N.B. There are no facilities to produce your sample at PCH; this must be done at home

Date and time sample was collected	Date _____ Time _____ Hr _____ mins(am)
Last sexual activity	Date _____
Was the sample complete?	Yes / No (please circle)
Have you had semen tested at this hospital before?	Yes / No (please circle)

****ENSURE YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT
BEFORE BRINGING YOUR SAMPLE****

****SAMPLES RECEIVED WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT
WILL NOT BE PROCESSED****