

Post-Vasectomy Semen Analysis

What is post-vasectomy semen analysis?

Following a vasectomy, semen analysis is required to determine if the surgery has been successful. The presence or absence of sperm in a semen sample produced after the procedure will determine if you need to continue using alternative means of contraception.

Your doctor has requested this test. You are required to produce 2 semen samples to complete the test:

- The first sample should be collected **16 weeks** after your operation, after a minimum of **20 ejaculations**.
- The second sample should be collected **20 weeks** after your operation.

What do I have to do?

- 1) Ensure that your doctor has provided you with a completed request form for post-vasectomy semen analysis, two semen collection containers (with a yellow lid, as pictured) and two specimen bags.
- 2) Read the instructions provided in this information sheet carefully prior to collecting your sample in the collection container provided by your doctor.
- 3) You must deliver your sample to the **PCH Outpatients Department** within **45 minutes of production** (please see the following instructions for guidance).



Your sample must be produced at home and delivered to the hospital at the time of your appointment. There is NO facility available to produce your semen sample at Peterborough City Hospital.

Do I need an appointment?

You do not currently need an appointment for this test. However, it is important that your sample is tested as soon as possible after production to ensure that the results that are produced are valid.

Samples should be examined within 4 hours of production. Samples that are received that are older than 4 hours on receipt may not be processed.

What happens if I don't bring my request form?

Your sample cannot be tested without a completed request form. Please ensure that you complete all the required fields on both the request form and the collection container

regarding your personal details and sample details. Your sample will not be tested if you fail to provide sufficient information.

What must I do before producing my sample?

In order to obtain the optimum sample for analysis, the recommended abstinence period is **2-7 days** prior to your appointment. Please abstain from any sexual activity (either through masturbation or intercourse) for 2 days before you collect your sample. This abstinence period should not exceed 7 days.

How do I collect my sample?

- Wash your hands and genitals prior to sample collection.
- Produce your sample by masturbation (hand stimulation) directly into the collection container. It is important that all of the semen that is produced is collected into the container.
- Complete the required fields on the request form and collection container. Include your full name, date of birth, sample collection date and time, date of last sexual activity and indicate if the sample is complete (i.e. the entire sample that was produced is in the container).
- Ensure that the lid of the collection container is firmly sealed and place the container in the specimen bag provided.
- Keep the sample close to your body (e.g. in your pocket) to prevent exposure to extremes of temperature.

Do NOT use alternative methods to masturbation to produce your sample. Samples obtained by withdrawal during sexual intercourse (coitus interruptus), or samples collected using a condom or any form of lubricant are unsuitable for analysis.

Where do I deliver my sample to?

You must bring your sample and completed request form to the reception desk at the PCH Outpatients Department as soon as possible after producing your sample. The department is only accessible via the main hospital entrance.

Samples can **ONLY** be delivered **between 08.30 hrs – 14.00 hrs from Monday to Friday** (excluding Bank Holidays). Samples received outside of these hours may not be tested.

How is my sample tested?

Your sample will be examined for the presence or absence of sperm through microscopic analysis.

If sperm are observed in your sample but it is greater than 1 hour old upon receipt, it will not be possible to determine whether they were motile or not. A repeat sample, received in the laboratory within 45 minutes of production, will need to be collected.

How do I get my results?

The results from the analysis of your sample will be sent back to the doctor that requested the test for you. Your results should normally be available within 21 days of your test.

Your doctor may request a repeat test to confirm the results. You will be provided with additional request forms and semen collection containers if this is required.

Due to the confidential nature of your results, the laboratory cannot give results directly to patients over the telephone. Please contact your doctor for your results.

What factors can affect my test results?

Recent viral illness or the use of drugs (for either prescription or recreational purposes) may affect semen quality. It is important that information regarding your recent medical history is disclosed to your doctor when you are referred for semen analysis, as this may affect the interpretation of your test results. The laboratory does not collect information about your medical history.

Quality Assurance

The laboratory subscribes to the external quality assurance programme provided by the UK National External Quality Assurance Scheme (UK NEQAS) for Reproductive Science.

Enquiries

Semen analysis is performed by the Department of Clinical Chemistry and Immunology. Please do not hesitate to contact the laboratory on **01733 678454** if you have any enquiries or require additional information about this test.

Contact Details

Department of Clinical Chemistry and Immunology
Peterborough City Hospital, Edith Cavell Campus, Bretton Gate, Peterborough, PE3 9GZ

Semen Analysis for Post-Vasectomy Investigations

Section 1 (Regarding the male patient)

Test Required:	Post-Vasectomy Semen Analysis <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Vasectomy Reversal <input type="checkbox"/>
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Male Forename	
Male Surname	
Male Date of Birth (DOB)	
NHS Number	
Hospital Number	
Requesting Doctor	
Surgery Name and Address	

Section 2 (To be completed by the patient following sample production at home)

Date of Sample Production	
Time of Sample Production	
Date of Last Sexual Activity	
Was the Sample Complete?	Yes / No (please circle)
Have you had semen tested at PCH before?	Yes / No (please circle)

Please deliver your sample to the Outpatients Department at Peterborough City Hospital.

Samples should be delivered to the department within 45 minutes of production.