

Information Leaflet



Liverpool Women's
NHS Foundation Trust

Post-vasectomy Semen Analysis (Leighton)

Why do I need a post-vasectomy semen analysis?

Approximately 12 weeks after your operation you are required to produce a semen sample to confirm whether your vasectomy has been successful. During the analysis we will not only check for the presence of sperm but also whether any sperm seen are motile and have fertilisation potential.

Some sperm can remain in the vas deferens (tubes) in the months following your procedure. It is important that you have ejaculated (via masturbation or with contraception) over 20 times before your post-vasectomy semen analysis to help clear out any sperm that have remained.

How do I get an appointment?

You will need to be referred to us by a clinician. Once we have received your referral, we will send you out a pack to the address provided to us. This pack will contain instructions, a production form, sample pot and appointment information. These instructions must be read in advance of attempting to produce your sample.

If you cannot make the appointment we have sent you, please contact Ward 25 reception team on 01270 612212 in advance to reschedule. We are unable to accept any samples without an appointment. Please note we are only able to offer appointments on Thursdays. Please feel free to contact the reception team to find out the dates that these sessions are being held.

How can I produce the sample?

Samples should be collected by masturbation. Do not produce your sample using lubrication, condoms or through the withdrawal method.

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If you are unable to masturbate, special non-toxic condoms designed specifically for the collection of semen samples are available for use at home. Please ask in advance of your appointment if this is something you require.

How do I collect the sample?

- In order to obtain an optimum sample you are required to abstain from any sexual activity (masturbation or intercourse) before your appointment. Please ejaculate 4 days before your appointment and then again 2 days before your appointment. Do not ejaculate again until you are producing your sample for analysis.
- Produce your sample by masturbation into the non-toxic sterile pot provided in your pack. Your pot must be labelled with your name, DOB and hospital identification number.
- Please do not attempt to produce your sample into any other type of specimen pot.
- Please ensure you attempt to collect all of the semen produced.
- Once the sample has been collected please ensure the lid is screwed on tightly and place the pot inside the sealable bag provided.
- Ensure you bring the fully completed request form with you to the hospital. We cannot accept your sample until this has been completed correctly.
- The pot must not be exposed to extremes of temperature either before or after sample production. If you are concerned about this, please speak to a member of staff.

Where can I produce the sample?

You may produce your sample at home if you can deliver it to the laboratory at your allotted appointment time **preferably within 30 minutes after collection and at least no longer than 50 minutes after collection**. Whilst travelling from home it is important you keep the sample close to the body under clothes during transportation (for example, in a pocket) as sperm are sensitive to extremes of temperature. If preferable, your partner may deliver your sample and completed production form.


If you cannot deliver your sample to the laboratory within 50 minutes of ejaculation or would rather produce your sample on site, we have production rooms available for use.

Where do I need to go?

The Andrology laboratory is located within Ward 25 at Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Leighton hospital (CW1 4QJ). From the Maternity and Women's services entrance, proceed down the corridor and take the stairs/lift on the left hand side to the 2nd floor. Please report to reception upon arrival.

How do I get my results?

Your results will be sent back to your referring clinician approximately 14 days after your post-vasectomy semen analysis. You should continue to use an alternative method of contraception until you have received confirmation of the success of your vasectomy, also known as clearance.

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Repeat tests

If you have not ejaculated 20 times or it has not been 12 weeks since the operation you may be asked to repeat the test at a later date. You may also be asked to repeat the test if there are any sperm seen in your sample.

The presence of sperm doesn't necessarily mean that your vasectomy has been unsuccessful since some sperm may remain in the vas deferens for a while after the operation. If invited, it is important that you attend your repeat test as it will help to confirm whether all residual sperm have been cleared out of the vas deferens or if the procedure has in fact failed. Your referring surgeon needs to be sure that you could not achieve a pregnancy before they grant you clearance.

Clearance can be given by your surgeon when no sperm are observed in a sample, so long as the sample has been produced in accordance with the instructions provided by us. Special clearance may be granted by your surgeon following the production of two semen samples where less than 100,000/ml non-motile sperm are observed, and so long as the sample has been produced in accordance with the instructions provided by us. Failure to attend your post-vasectomy semen analysis or follow the instructions provided could result in an unplanned pregnancy.

Queries

Please feel free to contact the Hewitt Fertility Centre Andrology service on 0151 702 4214 if you require any further information about this test. **PLEASE CONTACT THE WARD 25 RECEPTION TEAM DIRECTLY ON 01270 612212 IF YOU WISH TO CHANGE YOUR DATE/TIME OF APPOINTMENT.**


Quality

The Lewis-Jones Andrology department at the Hewitt Fertility Centre has provided a dedicated Andrology service for over 10 years. We were the first Andrology laboratory to be accredited for quality and competence by the UK Accreditation Scheme (UKAS). Our laboratory is also enrolled in the UK National External Quality Assurance Scheme (UK NEQAS) which helps to ensure clinical laboratory test results are accurate, reliable and comparable wherever they are produced.

Feedback

We appreciate and encourage feedback. If you need advice or are concerned about any aspect of care or treatment please speak to a member of staff

The Lewis-Jones Andrology Department,
Hewitt Fertility Centre,
Liverpool Women's Hospital
Crown Street,
L8 7SS
0151 702 4214

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<https://www.thehewittfertilitycentre.org.uk>


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This leaflet can be made available in different formats on request. If you would like to make any suggestions or comments about the content of this leaflet, then please contact the Patient Experience Team on 0151 702 4353 or by email at pals@lwh.nhs.uk

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