

Quality Assurance

The Andrology department is a UKAS accredited laboratory and complies with ISO15189 standards. The laboratory participates in external quality assurance (UKNEQAS) and internal quality assurance is monitored. All tests carried out are in accordance with ABA guidelines and WHO (World Health Organisation) guidelines (2010).

All specimens will be tested by State Registered Biomedical Scientists who are regularly competency assessed.

After testing, your specimen may be used for quality checks, audit purposes or teaching.

Please inform staff if you do not give your consent for your specimen to be used after analysis.



Results

If you have been referred by your GP, your results will be sent to them within 7 calendar days from receipt. Please contact your doctor's surgery to arrange this appointment.

If you have been referred by a hospital doctor, they will write to you with an appointment where they will discuss your results.

Results are not available from the laboratory.

Why would a repeat test be needed?

Guidelines that are not followed or borderline result often trigger the need for a repeat sample. Your referring doctor will request the department of Andrology to send you an appointment for a repeat test.

Please abstain from sexual activity for the same period of time as the original sample to maintain consistency and increase accuracy of results

No Smoking Policy

The NHS has a responsibility for the nation's health. Protect yourself, patients, visitors and staff by adhering to our no smoking policy. Smoking is not permitted within any of our hospital buildings or grounds.

Questions and Queries

If you have questions regarding your sample, please ring the laboratory on 01254 732959.

Should you have any concerns regarding the service or any aspect of your care please speak to the Senior Biomedical Scientist, or if you prefer, the Patient Advice Liaison Service (PALS).

Translation service

This document can be produced in Braille, on audio cassette and in other languages upon request, please call 01254 734380.



East Lancashire Hospitals
NHS Trust

Semen analysis

Patient information leaflet



Telegraph.co.uk

Male Fertility

Department of Andrology
Clinical Laboratory Medicine

Introduction

A semen analysis is usually advised if a couple is having difficulty conceiving (becoming pregnant). Primary infertility is an extremely common problem, affecting more than one in seven couples attempting their first pregnancy. Among those experiencing difficulty with conception, a male fertility problem is considered important in around 40 percent of all couples investigated for fertility.

The sample will be analysed according to the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** standards for volume, pH, concentration, motility, viability and morphology.

The results provide information about:

Volume.....How much semen is produced
Count.....How many sperm are present per millilitre of semen
Motility.....How many sperm are moving and how quickly they are moving
Morphology.....How many are of normal shape and size

The results will also note if the semen is unusually thick (viscous), if there is a tendency for the sperm to stick together (agglutination) or if there are any other significant cells present.

Arranging a Semen analysis for fertility

Your requesting doctor will send a request to our department for an appointment to be made for you to deliver your sample to us. If the appointed time is not convenient please telephone 01254 734380 to re-arrange the appointment. **If you arrive in the department without an appointment your specimen will be rejected.**

The doctor will give you a fertility pack (red) that will contain a pre-weighed specimen pot. **Please do not use any other container** other than the one supplied in your pack as some plastics are toxic to sperm. Andrology provide specimen containers that pass toxicity testing and are suitable for semen specimens. **If necessary please contact 01254 734380 for another container.**

Instructions for collecting the semen sample

In order that an optimum specimen is obtained there should be a period **without sexual activity** of at least **2-7 days** before the specimen is produced, but no more than 7 days. This allows sperm to reach full maturity before degeneration occurs after 7 days.

Enclosed is a specimen pot for your specimen. **The specimen should be collected at home and not in a public place as it is illegal.**

Specimen must be collected by masturbation only (lubricants must not be used) and passed **directly** (without loss) into the sterile container provided (**condoms or other containers must not be used**). Ensure that the container is properly sealed. The specimen should be collected **no more than 1 hour** before delivery to the laboratory.

Any samples over 1 hour old will not be processed through the laboratory and a repeat sample will be asked for.

The specimen pot must be clearly labelled with your full name, DOB, time of collection and number of days since last sexual activity; if any of this information is missing the report may be delayed.

After the sample is collected it must be transferred to the laboratory at body temperature within 1 hour. Any delay could affect the nature of the specimen.

When transporting the specimen- place the container close to your body to keep warm and take it directly to the Andrology Department.

Delivery of your sample

RBH

The Andrology Laboratory is based in the Department of Clinical Medicine, Level 0, Royal Blackburn Hospital, Haslingden Road, Blackburn

BGH

The Andrology clinic is based in Suite 3, Main Outpatients, Area 1, Level 2, BGH

(We are NOT open Saturday, Sunday or bank holidays on either site).

For further information please visit www.elht.nhs.uk/departments-wards-and-services/andrology.htm

You will be sent photographic directions for either RBH or BGH when you receive your appointment letter

Car parking

Royal Blackburn Hospital (Haslingden Road)

The best parking for patients visiting the Royal Blackburn Hospital is the patient and visitor car park near the main entrance.

Vehicles will be clamped if they are parked inappropriately.

Burnley General Hospital

Please park in patient and visitor area