



## 9 SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND PREPARATION

### 9.7 Andrology

#### 9.7.1 Semen Analysis – Fertility / Reversal of Vasectomy

Semen analysis is a time critical test, and the department operates a strict appointment only system for the analysis of semen samples, with clinics at pre-arranged times on both SRH and QEH sites. The choice for the patient will be either: -

1. To be given an appointment time to attend **The Pathology Centre** at the **Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead**. There are no on-site facilities for specimen production here. The patient will receive an appointment time together with instructions for producing his sample at home, and an appropriate container. Each container has been individually weighed before issue and batch tested to ensure it is non-toxic to sperm. The patient will need to produce his sample at home and bring it to The Pathology Centre **within 50 minutes** of it being produced (to ensure that the sample is examined within the recommended 1-hour time frame), and at his arranged appointment time.
2. To be given an appointment time to attend **The Fertility Centre** at **Sunderland Royal Hospital**. The patient will receive an appointment time together with instructions for producing his sample at home, and an appropriate container. Each container has been individually weighed before issue and batch tested to ensure it is non-toxic to sperm. The patient will need to produce his sample at home and bring it to The Fertility Centre **within 50 minutes** of it being produced (to ensure that the sample is examined within the recommended 1-hour time frame) and at his arranged appointment time.
3. In addition, the Fertility Centre at Sunderland Royal Hospital also provides on-site facilities for specimen production in a relaxed environment together with a high standard of care and support for the patient from our dedicated team. On-site production facilities are now available for all patients who would prefer to produce their sample on-site or who are unable to meet the delivery time requirements for delivering their sample to the laboratory of their choice within 50 minutes of production.

##### 9.7.1.1 **Gateshead Clinic Service** (Tel: 0191 445 8503 Monday to Friday 9am to 12.00 noon)

For patients who wish to attend the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, **please DO NOT give your patient a sample container.**

- Order Infertility Semen Analysis via your ICE desktop selecting **Infertility Semen Analysis**.
- Select your Preferred Laboratory Location **Gateshead**
- Print off the ICE request label with the patient's details and send it to: -

The Andrology Appointments Secretary (Gateshead Appointments)  
The NHS Pathology Centre  
Queen Elizabeth Hospital  
Gateshead  
NE9 6SX



An appointment will then be made for your patient to attend The NHS Pathology Centre at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

To ensure that results are reliable, your patient will be sent a pre-weighed non-toxic sample container to collect his sample into, together with a letter detailing his appointment time, a Patient Information Leaflet with instructions, and a map with directions to The Pathology Centre.

Samples received in any other container **WILL NOT** be processed and the patient will need to be referred again. The patient will need to produce his sample at home and bring it to The Pathology Centre **within 50 minutes** of it being produced and at his arranged appointment time.

Patients who are unable to deliver their sample to the laboratory within the required time frame of 50 minutes from production may request an appointment to produce their sample on-site at Sunderland Fertility Centre where on-site specimen production facilities are available.

**9.7.1.2**     ***Sunderland Clinic Service***  
***(Tel: 0191 445 8503 Monday to Friday 9am to 12.00 noon)***

For patients who wish to attend the Sunderland Royal Hospital, **please DO NOT give your patient a sample container.**

- Order Infertility Semen Analysis via your ICE desktop selecting **Infertility Semen Analysis**, (or complete a Cellular Pathology request Form)
- Select your Preferred Laboratory Location **Sunderland**
- Print off the ICE request label with the patient's details and send either the ICE request label or a completed Cellular Pathology Request Form to: -

The Andrology Appointments Secretary (Sunderland Appointments)  
The NHS Pathology Centre  
Queen Elizabeth Hospital  
Gateshead  
NE9 6SX

An appointment will then be made for your patient to attend The Fertility Centre at Sunderland Royal Hospital, which is located on Level 2 of Chester Lodge opposite the main Chester Road Block of the hospital.

To ensure that results are reliable, your patient will be sent a pre-weighed non-toxic sample container to collect his sample into, together with a letter detailing his appointment time, a Patient Information Leaflet with instructions, and a map with directions to The Fertility Centre.

Samples received in any other container **WILL NOT** be processed and the patient will need to be referred again. The patient will need to produce his sample at home and bring it to The Fertility Centre **within 50 minutes** of it being produced and at his arranged appointment time.



Patients who are unable to deliver their sample to the laboratory within the required time frame of 50 minutes from production may request an appointment to produce their sample on-site at Sunderland Fertility Centre where on-site specimen production facilities are available.

### 9.7.2 Semen Analysis – Post Vasectomy

Following their vasectomy operation, the referring clinician should advise the patient of the correct procedure for the collection and transportation of samples to the laboratory and provide him with a “**Pathology PVSA Pack**” and a Cellular Pathology Request for the PVSA test.

Each Pathology PVSA Pack will contain the following: -

- **One appropriate sample container that is non-toxic to sperm. (Please do not give your patient any other sample container)**
- One PVSA Patient Information Form (including instructions for patients to produce their semen sample)
- One addressed padded envelope and one plastic specimen bag.

Pathology PVSA Packs can be obtained from Pathology Stores on 0191 445 2307.

Referrers should order the PVSA test either via the ICE Desktop, selecting Andrology, Post Vasectomy Semen Analysis, or by completing a Cellular Pathology Request Form. When ordering via the Ice Desktop print off the request with the patient details or print off the patient label and attach it to a Cellular Pathology Request Form.

#### Please Note:

- Patients should provide their first post vasectomy sample **at least 12 weeks** after their vasectomy operation and having **ejaculated at least 20 times**.
- Prior to production the patient should abstain from sexual activity for between 48 hours and 7 days.
- The semen sample should be produced at home; patients must collect their entire ejaculate by masturbation into the toxicity tested sample container provided by their consultant or GP.
- The sample container must be clearly labelled with three patient identifiers (e.g. patient's full name, date of birth, hospital number, NHS number), and the date and time of sample production.
- The laboratory cannot accept leaking samples, and a repeat sample will be requested for assessment.
- For medico-legal reasons the laboratory cannot accept unlabelled or incorrectly labelled samples, and a repeat sample will be requested for assessment.
- Patients will be required to deliver their PVSA sample to the hospital Pathology Reception at either Sunderland, Gateshead or South Tyneside within **one hour** of production and kept as near to body temperature as possible during transit.



- Samples will only be accepted between 8.30am and 11.00am Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays).
- The PVSA Patient Information Form in the PVSA Pack must be fully completed by the patient to confirm the recommended criteria, and returned with his sample, together with the Cellular Pathology Request Form.
- The patient should be informed that the result will be forwarded to the referring clinician within 7 to 10 days following analysis of the sample.

### **9.7.3 Andrology Clinical Advice**

Fertility clinical advice is available from Dr Madhavi Gudipati via Mrs Janet Dryden on 0191 445 2526.

Post Vasectomy clinical advice is available from Dr Matthew Theodosiou via Mrs Janet Dryden on 0191 445 2526.