

Semen analysis for fertility investigations

Pathology Department Patient Information Leaflet

Please read these instructions thoroughly at least seven days before your appointment



Your consultant or GP must provide you with a completed request form with the following information:

- Your details – full name, date of birth and address.
- The requesting doctor's name and type of specimen.
- Clinical details – to include a reason for the analysis e.g. fertility, vasectomy reversal.

Important: your sample will not be examined without a request form.

Once you have this you will need to telephone the Cellular Pathology Laboratory at New Cross Hospital on **01902 695287** between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, to arrange an appointment time for you to bring your sample to the department. New Cross Hospital manages all semen analysis appointments for Russells Hall Hospital. To ensure confidentiality, appointments can only be made by the person stated on the request form.

If later you know you will not be able to attend your appointment, please call the above number to cancel or re-arrange it. Missed appointments increase our waiting times.

Is there anything that may affect my results?

Failure to follow the collection guidance can seriously affect semen analysis results. If you have not followed the recommendations exactly, contact the laboratory and cancel your test. We will offer you a new appointment as soon as possible.

What if I wish to comment on the service?

We aim to provide a high quality service. If you have any complaints, comments or suggestions then you can raise them directly with the Department by writing to:

The Quality Manager, Black Country Pathology Services, Pathology Dept., Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton WV10 0QP

To help us improve our service we do run occasional patient

satisfaction surveys, so you may be asked to complete a questionnaire for us when you attend the laboratory.

What do I do to collect the sample?

It is important to note that there are no facilities for samples to be produced at the Cellular Pathology Laboratory and it must therefore be collected before coming to the Pathology Department.

The sample must be collected into a sterile, screw-capped 70ml container provided by the requesting doctor or alternatively you can collect one from Pathology Department reception at Russells Hall Hospital.

- Before you produce the semen sample, you must not have sex or ejaculate for two days before; otherwise there may be immature sperm in the sample. Also, the sample should not be collected more than seven days after sex or ejaculation; otherwise it may show a lot of dead sperm in the sample.
- Our laboratory investigation must be performed **within one hour of collection**, and therefore the sample must be produced no more than an hour before your appointment time.
- The specimen must be obtained by masturbation, and the entire sample must be collected directly into the container provided. **Do not** use a condom as they contain spermicide (a sperm-killing agent). Any problems producing a sample by masturbation must be discussed with your consultant or GP.
- Label the specimen container with your name and the date and time of collection. Use the sterile container provided – other containers are not acceptable as they may kill sperm. Do not open the container until you are ready to produce the sample.
- Ensure the cap is screwed down firmly, place it in the bag attached to the request form and then seal the bag.
- During transit to the laboratory to drop the sample off, make sure it is kept warm (body temperature), either in an inside pocket or against the skin, as a drop in temperature may kill the sperm.

- Bring your sample (within one hour of collection) with the request form to the Pathology Laboratory reception, First Floor, West Wing, Russells Hall Hospital.
- The receptionist will call a member of staff from the Cellular Pathology Department who will meet you in reception to receive the sample from you and check that all the details required have been given. This should take no longer than a few minutes.

Do not hand over your sample to any other member of staff or leave it on the reception desk without speaking to the receptionist.

Please note: if you do not adhere to the guidance given or attend without an appropriate request form from your doctor, then your specimen will be rejected.

What will my sample be examined for?

Your sample will be examined for:

- **Appearance**
- **Volume** – therefore the sample should be from a single ejaculate.
- **Motility** – this is an assessment of the progression of the sperm (how well the sperm move). This is why the sample must be fresh and arrive at the laboratory within one hour of collection as any delay in transit or a drop in temperature could affect the motility and vitality (how lively the sperm are).
- **Sperm concentration** – this is an accurate determination of the number of sperm in one millilitre of semen. The first part of the ejaculate is rich with sperm and this is why it is important to ensure the whole of the sample has been collected.
- **Morphology** – this is an assessment of the shape and size of the sperm to assess the number of 'normal' sperm.

Semen quality is difficult to assess on a single sample and has to be interpreted together with clinical information so it is not unusual to be asked to provide a repeat sample.

Samples will not be examined if:

- There is no accompanying request form.
- There has been a delay of more than one hour between collection of the sample and receipt in the laboratory.
- The complete sample has not been collected.
- If abstinence is outside of the recommended guidelines for the test (48 hours – seven days).
- The sample has leaked in transit.
- The specimen is received in an unsuitable container. The containers issued have been tested for toxicity prior to distribution as part of our quality assurance. Therefore, other containers may affect the results.

How do I get to the Pathology Department?

Details of how to get to Russells Hall Hospital are on our website www.dgft.nhs.uk

Directions to Pathology

Arrive at Russells Hall Hospital main reception. Walk past the restaurant and from the main corridor, access the lift or stairs (to the left of the lift). Make your way to the first floor, turn right as you exit the lift or stairs and proceed along to the very end of the corridor. Here you will find the Pathology reception.

How do I get my results?

The results will be issued to the requesting GP or consultant. Please allow seven to 10 working days before you contact them.

If you have any questions, or if there is anything you do not understand about this leaflet, please contact:

The Cellular Pathology Department at New Cross Hospital on 01902 695287 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)

Russells Hall Hospital switchboard number: 01384 456111

This leaflet can be downloaded or printed from:

<http://dgft.nhs.uk/services-and-wards/pathology/>

If you have any feedback on this patient information leaflet, please email dgft.patient.information@nhs.net

This leaflet can be made available in large print, audio version and in other languages, please call 0800 073 0510.

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此宣传单可提供大字版本、音频版本和其它语言版本，请拨打电话：0800 073 0510。

Ulotka dostępna jest również w dużym druku, wersji audio lub w innym języku. W tym celu zadzwoń pod numer 0800 073 0510.

ਇਹ ਪਰਚਾ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ, ਬੋਲ ਕੇ ਰੀਕਾਰਡ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਅਤੇ ਦੂਸਰੀਆਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ, 0800 073 0510 ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜੀ।

Aceasta broșura poate fi pusă la dispoziție tipărită cu caractere mari, versiune audio sau în alte limbi, pentru acest lucru va rugăm sunați la 0800 073 0510.

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