

Information for patients

Semen Analysis

Andrology Service

Path Links Pathology

Available at Boston and Grimsby Hospitals



Name:

Who to contact and how:

Notes:

Diana, Princess of Wales
Hospital
Scartho Road
Grimsby
DN33 2BA

03033 306999

www.nlg.nhs.uk

Scunthorpe General
Hospital
Cliff Gardens
Scunthorpe
DN15 7BH

03033 306999

www.nlg.nhs.uk

Goole & District
Hospital
Woodland Avenue
Goole
DN14 6RX

03033 306999

www.nlg.nhs.uk

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Introduction

You have been given this leaflet because you have been referred to Andrology for semen analysis. This is to investigate fertility. You may also have been given this leaflet if you have had a vasectomy reversal.

Semen analysis looks at your sperm to see if there is any reason why men might be having trouble making a baby. Sperm live in your semen and work with eggs produced by a lady to make a baby. The test will find out if you are able to make a baby or not.

With this leaflet you should have been given a pathology request form with your details on it and a sample pot. If you do not have either of these please contact your GP or clinic that gave you this leaflet.

Fertility Semen Analysis

Fertility looks at how easy it is for you to make a baby. It could be that you and your partner are trying to make a baby (trying to conceive) but are experiencing problems, even though you are trying regularly. About 1 in every 6 couples has these kinds of difficulties.

Male fertility (being able to make babies) changes for a number of reasons, such as age, illness or even lifestyle changes. It is therefore important that you have this test, even if you have children already.

If you have had a vasectomy reversal then we need to test to make sure that this has worked.

For us to do the test you have been asked to give us a semen sample. You will need to book an appointment to deliver your sample to one of our laboratories. You should choose the nearest hospital from the list so we can receive your sample as fresh as possible.

After your sample has been tested your results will be available from your GP or at the clinic which sent you for this test. The laboratory is not able to give results to you.

It is important that you follow the instructions below when producing your sample and delivering it to one of our laboratories. If you do not follow these instructions it may mean we cannot test your sample. In that case you will need to give us another sample to test.

If you are unsure about anything in this leaflet you should contact your GP, clinic or one of the laboratories. Laboratory contact details are listed for you below.

Benefits

This test will tell us about your semen and how healthy your sperm is. This will help your GP or clinic decide how best to help you have a baby.

The laboratory will test your semen and look at its appearance, viscosity – how thick or runny it is, volume – how much of it there is and pH – how acidic or alkaline it is.

The laboratory will also assess your sperm count – how many sperm are in your semen, motility – how your sperm move and morphology – what your sperm look like.

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Risks

Samples are collected into the empty sterile container that you have been given. Producing your sample is completely safe and natural, however if you are experiencing any pain or discomfort when producing your sample you need to contact your GP or clinic.

Alternatives

The laboratory has no other way of checking whether or not you are fertile; meaning we do not have any other way of finding out whether or not you are able to make a baby.

It is your choice whether or not to have this test. If you choose not to have this test then your GP or clinic will not be able to tell you if you are able to make a baby. It may also make it more difficult for your GP or clinic to help you make a baby if you do not have this test.

Booking an Appointment

You must have an appointment to give us your sample. You should always make your appointment with your nearest hospital, listed below. If for any reason you need to change or cancel your appointment, please let us know. This helps us keep waiting times short.

Dropping off your sample – You must make sure you get your sample to us **within 1 hour** of production. You will need an appointment to drop your sample off with us. Appointments are available at the sites listed below. You should visit the laboratory closest to you. Please telephone the laboratory using the number below to book your appointment. Appointments are available during the times listed.

If you are not able to get your sample to us within an hour you also have the option of visiting Grimsby or Boston laboratories. Both Grimsby and Boston sites have private rooms available for you to produce your sample. Please mention at time of booking your appointment that you require a room. Please be aware that stimulating material is not provided but you may bring some along for your own personal use.

It is possible to have your sample dropped off by a close friend or family member, as long as they know you well enough to answer any questions about your health. Please make sure you complete your section of the request form with date and time of sample collection, days since ejaculation and say whether or not the whole sample was collected.

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Laboratories

Below is a list of the hospitals where we have laboratories that you can take your sample to. You need to call the telephone number given below to book your appointment.

Boston, Pilgrim Hospital	Monday	09.15 – 12.00	Call: (01205) 446314
	Tuesday	09.15 – 12.00	
	Wednesday	09.15 – 12.00	
	Thursday	09.15 – 12.00	
	Friday	09.15 – 12.00	

Goole and District Hospital	See Grimsby details	Call: 03033 304494
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Diana Princess of Wales Hospital, Grimsby	Monday	09.15 – 11:00	Call: 03033 304494
	Tuesday	09.15 – 11:00	
	Wednesday	09.15 – 11:00	
	Thursday	09.15 – 11:00	
	Friday	09.15 – 11:00	

Lincoln County Hospital	See Boston details	Call: (01205) 446314
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Scunthorpe General Hospital	See Grimsby details	Call: 03033 304494
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Grantham and District Hospital	See Boston details	Call: (01205) 446314
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Collecting Your Sample

It is important that you follow these rules when you are collecting your sample. If you do not follow these rules then we may not be able to test your sample.

When collecting your sample, please do the following:

- You must not ejaculate for between 2 days (48 hours) and 7 days before you collect your sample. Do not wait more than 7 days
- Please make sure you wash your hands and genitals before you collect your sample

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- Please collect your sample by masturbating into the container you have been given. **Only use the container you have been given.** If you did not get given a container, or it is lost or damaged, please contact your GP or clinic for a new one
- Please make sure all the sample goes into the container. If any is missed please tell the lab when you hand in your sample
- If you have any problems producing your sample by masturbation then please contact Boston or Grimsby Andrology laboratory for advice

Once you have produced your sample seal the lid on the container tightly so it does not leak. Please write your full name (including any middle names), your date of birth and the date and time at which you produced your sample. Please also write the name of the person (GP or clinic doctor) who asked you for the sample.

If you do not want us to use your sample for quality control / training purposes then please let us know on the request form.

Reference Section

This information leaflet is written in compliance with WHO laboratory manual for the examination and processing of human semen (2010) 5th ed.

Contact Details for Further Information

If you need any further information or help with anything in this leaflet you should contact your GP, clinic or any of the laboratories listed above.

Any Comments, Compliments, Concerns or Complaints

If you have any other concerns please talk to your nurse, therapist or doctor. Our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) are available on 03033 306518 (Grimsby, Scunthorpe and Goole). You can also contact nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net

As a Trust we value equality of access to our information and services, therefore alternative formats available on request at nlg-tr.interpreters@nhs.net

Date of Issue: April, 2019

Review Period: April, 2022

Author: Advanced Practitioner of Andrology

IFP-0878 v1.3

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