

## Post Vasectomy clearance

In order to establish the success of sterilisation by vasectomy it is necessary to analyse the semen to prove that the sample is absent of any sperm cells and therefore the patient is no longer able to conceive. Samples taken on more than one occasion may be needed to confirm clearance.

Post Vasectomy Semen Analysis (PVSA) should be carried out no less than 12 weeks after the procedure was performed, and after a minimum of 20 ejaculations. Collecting and delivering the sample is identical to how you would do it for an infertility test (see instructions below) except that the sample only needs to be delivered within four hours of production – if it is not a repeat sample.

Effective sterilisation can be achieved even when the greatly reduced count remains above zero (<100,000/ml) provided the sperm are non-motile. In these 'special clearance' circumstances it is dependent upon the judgement of the suitably qualified clinical specialist dealing with the case to grant clearance or 'special clearance' and advise the patient that the sterilisation was successful and should only be given after assessment of two samples (or more at the discretion of the clinician), the second of which must be examined within one hour.

It is important that the patient continues to use alternative means of contraception after the operation until they are advised otherwise by the clinician.

## Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

If you have a compliment, complaint or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or [whh-tr.whitthealthPALS@nhs.net](mailto:whh-tr.whitthealthPALS@nhs.net)

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet please contact us on 020 7288 3182. We will try our best to meet your needs.

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**Whittington Health NHS Trust**  
Magdala Avenue  
London  
N19 5NF  
Phone: 020 7272 3070  
[www.whittington.nhs.uk](http://www.whittington.nhs.uk)

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# Post Vasectomy Semen Analysis

## A patient's guide



## What happens at the Semen Analysis appointment?

Appointments are available Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 09:00-10:00, 10:00-11:00, 11:00-12:00 or 14:00-15:00 via our 'choose and book' system. Your GP/Clinician will advise on how to book such an appointment. We recommend that you produce the sample at home and bring it to your allocated appointment; however, if you are unable to get the sample to us within an hour of production (or four hours for the first Post Vasectomy sample), please contact us for advice as we have a collection suite which may be booked.

Your allocated appointment is for dropping your sample off to the Microbiology department. On arrival to your appointment take your sample to Level 5 Blood test reception on k Block. Once at the Blood test reception tell the reception staff that you have a sample for Microbiology and wait for a member of the Microbiology team to come round and collect it from you. They will invite you into a quiet, non-public area – in case any discussion is required or questions need to be answered about the sample or the testing procedure.

### Can my partner bring in my sample?

If instructions have been followed and all of the questions on the front of the request leaflet have been answered, your partner may drop off the sample if necessary.

Failure to follow the collection guidance will negatively affect your results. If you have not followed the recommendations exactly, contact us and cancel your test. We will try to offer you a new appointment as soon as possible.

## How do I collect and deliver my sample?

Before producing your sample you must:

- Abstain from intercourse or ejaculations for 2-7 days.
- You must also be hygienic, washing your hands and genital area with soap and water, ensure complete removal of all soap residues and dry thoroughly.
- Use only the container provided – other containers are NOT acceptable as they may kill sperm.
- Ensure the whole sample is collected (The first part may be particularly sperm rich).
- Once the sample is in the provided container, make sure that the screw cap is firmly attached and place it in the bag provided. .
- Please ensure that your full name, date of birth and hospital/NHS number is clearly written on both the sample and the request form.
- Keep the sample close to the body during transport to the laboratory - as sperm are sensitive to extremes of temperatures. Do not overheat or chill the sample as this may cause sperm death.

- Deliver the sample to the laboratory at your allocated time slot and within one hour of production for any repeated samples, or within 4 hours for the first sample.
- Please complete the patient section on the front of the request leaflet.

Samples should be produced by masturbation into the pot provided, these have been pre-weighed and toxicity tested according to current UKAS standards. It is therefore essential that no other pot is used. Withdrawal (coitus interruptus) is not recommended because it is too easy to lose part of the sample, therefore making the test inaccurate. Do not use lubricants such as K-Y jelly. Condoms should not be used because they contain spermicide which kills sperm.

## About the testing

### How are the sperm tested?

We examine a number of important sperm factors which all contribute towards a man's ability to conceive. The most important of the tests in cases of post vasectomy are:

**Sperm Clearance** – The sample is examined to establish that sperm are absent or greatly reduced.  
**Sperm motility** - Sperm are graded on their ability to swim, the progressive motile swimming sperm being the most fertile. Any motile sperm in a sample means that clearance cannot yet be granted

### When will I receive the results?

Results will be available within 24 hours.