

INFORMATION FOR THE COLLECTION OF SEMINAL FLUID SAMPLES FOR POST-VASECTOMY ANALYSIS AT YORK HOSPITAL.

Please note: There are strict specimen acceptance guidelines for post-vasectomy semen analysis. These are to comply with World Health Organisation (WHO 2021) and best practice guidelines, required for UKAS accreditation against ISO standards 15189, and will help ensure valid results.

Samples will NOT be processed if the instructions in this sheet are not followed. Please read carefully before producing your sample.

Booking to deliver a sample or to use the sample production room

Please note: The earliest date at which you can provide your first sample will be provided by your doctor. This is **not** an appointment.

An appointment must be made whether you choose to produce your sample at home or use the dedicated room on-site. Please use the website: www.york.nhs.uk/andrology where you will see all available appointments. If you have difficulty booking online, please ring the lab on 01904 726258. (The phone is manned 8.30am – 5pm, Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays. Please be aware, this is the direct line to the laboratory, we may not be able to deal with telephone queries during busy periods.)

Bookings must be made at least 2 days in advance. Appointments are Monday to Friday and exclude bank holidays.

Appointments can also be made to deliver a first sample to Scarborough specimen reception between 08:35 and 09:00. See further details below.

Samples will not be processed without an appointment.

All information regarding sample pots, request forms and all definitions/terminology can be found on the booking website above. FAQs can also be found there.

Current COVID-19 related procedures

For current COVID-19 guidance, please read the up-to-date information on the booking webpage.

Sample Delivery

First samples:

First samples must be received by York Hospital Laboratory Medicine Reception within **3 hours 45 mins of sample production to be processed within 4 hours**. These can either:

- be delivered directly to York at a **pre-booked appointment** time or:
- be pre-booked in to deliver to the Specimen Reception at Scarborough Hospital between 08:35 and 09:00, in time for the transport to York. The sample must not

References:

WHO laboratory manual for the examination and processing of human semen, Sixth Edition, 2021.
Best Practice: 2016 Laboratory guidelines for postvasectomy semen analysis. Association of Biomedical Andrologists, the British Andrology Society and the British Association of Urological Surgeons 2016. *J Clin Pathol* 10.1136

be more than 1 hour old when delivered to Scarborough, to enable processing within 4 hours. All sample requirements **must** be adhered to, an additional label will be added to your request form with the necessary prompts.

If a second sample is required:

- If non-motile sperm have been seen on your first sample, a second sample will likely be requested by your clinician. This sample should be brought directly to York Hospital Laboratory Medicine Reception at a **pre-booked appointment time within 45 minutes to be processed within 1 hour.**
- **Sample production room:** If you are unable to deliver the sample from home within 45 minutes, a dedicated sample production room within the hospital can be **booked in advance** using the website.

Sample requirements for both the first and any subsequent tests:

- You **MUST** have a **completed request form** from your clinician/GP. Ensure the **requesting clinician and/or GP practice details** – name and location - are written on the Cytology request form so results can be sent out appropriately.
- Samples **MUST** be produced into the **toxicity-tested specimen pot** provided (labelled as below). Please avoid storing the pot against radiators which may cause the plastic to become toxic to sperm. Samples in the wrong pot will be rejected.



- Samples for post-vasectomy analysis **MUST only** be collected at or after **12 weeks post-surgery and after a minimum of 20 ejaculates.** Samples will be rejected if these criteria are not met.
- You **MUST abstain** from ejaculation for a **minimum of 48 hours** and a **maximum of 7 days** prior to producing the sample. If the abstinence period is outside this time, the sample will be rejected.

References:

WHO laboratory manual for the examination and processing of human semen, Sixth Edition, 2021.
Best Practice: 2016 Laboratory guidelines for postvasectomy semen analysis. Association of Biomedical Andrologists, the British Andrology Society and the British Association of Urological Surgeons 2016. *J Clin Pathol* 10.1136

- **You must NOT use a condom, coitus interruptus or lubricants** for specimen collection as *any* contamination will be toxic to sperm. The sample must be collected by masturbation directly into the pot only.
- Ensuring good personal hygiene, the **whole sample** must be produced by masturbation directly into the container provided. Laboratory staff will ask you to confirm completeness. Incomplete samples will be rejected.
- You **must keep the sample warm at body temperature**, e.g. by keeping it in a pocket close to your body. You will be asked to confirm this. (This does not include room booking patients).
- Please write the **time** and **date of collection** on the request form.
- Ensure your details are fully completed on both the request form and the specimen pot. Required information is your **forename, surname, and date of birth**. The form should also state your **address** and **NHS number** (where possible).
- **Please note**; you will be also asked if you consent to any remaining specimen to be used for training & quality purposes. This is anonymised and is to train new staff and to follow ISO standards.

Directions to York Hospital

Directions to York Hospital (YO31 8HE) can be found on the hospital website: [York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust - Getting here \(yorkhospitals.nhs.uk\)](http://yorkhospitals.nhs.uk)

The multi-storey carpark has up to 15 minutes free parking. In addition, there are four “Drop off” points at the front of the hospital which are free for 20 minutes, if available.

If you experience traffic problems or parking difficulties when dropping off a sample, please ring the lab on 01904 726258, we can advise or rearrange your appointment if required.

Disabled parking spaces are available immediately outside the main entrance. These are for disabled badge holders only. Parking within the multi-storey is free of charge to those with a disabled parking badge.

Please **ring the laboratory from outside the hospital** at your appointment time.

Directions to Scarborough Hospital Pathology Reception (First Post-Vasectomy Samples Only)

Enter the hospital through the main entrance and follow the signs to the pathology department which is situated close to the entrance. The lab opens at 08:35 and **samples must be delivered before 09:00.**

PLEASE DO NOT take second specimens or specimens for fertility investigations to Scarborough.

References:

WHO laboratory manual for the **examination and processing of human semen, Sixth Edition, 2021.**
Best Practice: 2016 Laboratory guidelines for postvasectomy semen analysis. Association of Biomedical Andrologists, the British Andrology Society and the British Association of Urological Surgeons 2016. *J Clin Pathol* 10.1136