

Collection Instructions for Semen Analysis

The following information explains the requirements for basic and postvasectomy semen analysis. Please review the collection instructions and complete the form below.

Patient Instructions for Semen Collection

1. In order to make sure that a fully qualified technologist will be available to perform the necessary tests on the patient's specimen, the patient must call the laboratory at the number provided by your doctor and set up an appointment. Note that a period of abstinence of two to seven days is to be observed before the specimen is collected. This includes ejaculation by any means.
2. The specimen must be delivered to the laboratory within one hour of collection so the technologists can begin testing within one hour after the specimen is produced. This is essential for all basic fertility evaluations. (For postvasectomy check-ups, the most meaningful results are obtained within this time frame, but useful laboratory information can still be provided for three days after specimen collection.)
3. Temperature extremes during transit must be avoided (that is, less than 70°F or greater than 100°F). Patients can most conveniently avoid temperature extremes by carrying the container close to their person, preferably inside a shirt or pocket, especially during cold weather.
4. The specimen must be produced by masturbation. No lubricant of any kind may be used.
5. The entire ejaculate must be collected in a clean screw-cap container, preferably one provided by your doctor or the laboratory, to make certain that there is no residue of possible spermicidal materials (soap or detergent, for example) in or on the interior surface of the container. Because most condoms contain spermicidal chemicals, their use for this purpose is to be avoided. (Note: If your doctor is also ordering a semen culture, you will have to use a container that is sterile. You should verify this with the doctor's office.)
6. Write your first and last name, date of birth, and date and time of collection on the specimen container.

Complete the information on the form below, place the form and specimen container in the bag, and give it to the employee in the reception area along with your doctor's written test order form. Be prepared to provide your insurance information.

Semen Analysis Specimen Information Form

Patient's name: _____ Date of birth: _____

Date of collection: _____ Time specimen was produced: _____ Days of abstinence: _____

Was the specimen collected by masturbation? Yes No

Does the cup contain the entire specimen (complete ejaculate)? Yes No

Sterile container: Yes___ No___ If "no," source of container: _____

If specimen was transported from another location, did you keep it close to your body (inside shirt or pocket, etc)? Yes No

If specimen was exposed to extreme heat or cold during the trip to the lab, please describe: _____

Any other problems in getting the specimen to the lab? _____

Time specimen was delivered to the lab: _____

Patient's Signature: _____

The information provided above is true and complete.

