What is the regional diagnostic andrology service?
This NHS service is offered to patients registered with a GP within Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and is located at the Andrology Laboratory at the Leicester Fertility Centre based at the Leicester Royal Infirmary.
The service is (ISO 9001: 2012 certified) The International Standards Organisation (ISO) is an internationally recognised standard; as a mark of achievement in quality management, it demonstrates our commitment to quality and improvement of services. There are numerous benefits associated with a certified ISO quality management system, including improved service and quality and increased customer satisfaction levels.
The centre is licensed by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA).
The service provides a diagnostic analysis and information service for male patients about their semen (sperm) in accordance with the World Health Organisation Guidelines.

This service is for patients who are actively trying to conceive (have a baby), for Spire post vasectomy semen analysis (PVSA) samples and a small number of other providers- please check list below. All other vasectomy samples are not tested at the Leicester Royal infirmary- you should contact your GP for where to send your sample.

Anybody wishing to have a private semen analysis can do so by contacting the Leicester Fertility centre on 0116 2585071 and booking an appointment, there is a charge for this service.

Appointments
Appointments for Semen analyses are available via the E-Referral Service.
Alternatively appointments for private semen analysis can be made by calling the Leicester Fertility Centre on **0116 2585922**.
Out of hours cover is only provided for urgent sperm banking referrals.

Who can access the service?
The Diagnostic andrology service offers preliminary diagnostic semen analysis investigations for the investigation of male fertility.
Referrals are received from Consultants within UHL and for General Practitioners from the Leicester and Leicestershire area for the following patients:

- Infertility (NHS and Private patients)
- Retrograde analysis
- Oncology (NHS patients)

The centre provides a post vasectomy semen analysis service (PVSA) for organisations with whom it has a PVSA service level agreement. Listed below:
Specimen collection requirements
To produce a sample, patients must obtain the following from their requesting clinician:

- Wide mouthed sterile sample pot with a screw top lid (not a universal) provided by UHL Trust and be labelled with patients details
- Leak proof sample bag
- Request form with patient details, test required, clinical details and requesting physician
- Semen analysis form (patient to complete top section)
- COVID-19 triage questionnaire
- Current sample production instructions are available on our website: www.leicesterfertilitycentre.org.uk
- Samples must be labelled with a minimum of three unique identifiers, including patient name- surname and forename and date of birth.

Sample production
Samples should be produced at home and should be collected by dry masturbation only directly into the container provided. Lubrication should not be used. For diagnostic semen analysis and PVSA special clearance samples should reach the laboratory ideally within 1 hour of production, as close to body temperature as possible e.g. by placing in a pocket close to the body. For routine PVSA samples these may be accepted within 4 hours of production.

Hands and genitals must be washed before sample production.

You must abstain from intercourse / ejaculation for more than 2 days but less than 7 days. The ideal period of abstinence is 2-3 days. A repeat may be requested for samples with less than 2 or greater than 7 days abstinence

You must then bring the sample in a sealable bag along with the request form and paperwork you were given by your doctor to the Leicester Fertility Centre.

You must make sure that prior to sample production the container is fully labeled with all your details: name, date of birth, address, time and date of production. Unlabeled samples will not be tested and will be discarded.
Why can’t I use lubricant(s), intercourse or a condom to produce my sample?

Lubricants and ‘normal’ condoms are toxic to sperm and so must not be used when producing a sample for analysis as this may affect the results.

Withdrawal at intercourse should not be used to produce a sample, as the first part of the ejaculate that contains the majority of the sperm may be lost.

Any samples not produced in accordance with the instructions above will not be tested and will be discarded.

Production with Silastic Condom:

If you are unable to produce a sample by masturbation we can provide special silastic condoms into which you can collect your sample. These are available at our reception at a small cost. Condoms must be secured using the tie provided and placed into a labelled sample pot.

Specimen reception

On arrival at the Leicester Fertility Centre, patients will be asked to confirm their name and date of birth is written on the sample pot. Request form, semen analysis form (top half completed by patient) and completed triage questionnaire must accompany the sample.

Acceptance criteria

Samples will only be tested if the acceptance criteria are met.

If a problem with the sample is noticed by the reception staff, the patient will be issued with a new sample pot, set of instructions, and asked to repeat the sample.

Samples will not be tested if;

- No referral form, semen analysis form or triage questionnaire
- Sample is unlabelled
- Sample has leaked
- Sample not hand delivered to Leicester Fertility Centre
- Less than three patient identifiers on the sample pot or request form. First name, surname and date of birth.
- Samples greater in excess of 1 hour old – dependant on assay request (>4 hours for initial PVSA)
- Samples not produced by masturbation (unless silastic condom is used)

What if my sample cannot be tested?

If the sample cannot be tested you will be informed by the reception staff. The sample will be taken from you to be discarded appropriately. A copy of your request form will be made and a note sent to your doctor as to why it has not been tested. You will be given instructions, bag and sample pot and asked to repeat the test.
Any other problems, concerns or recommendations will be highlighted on the report and these will be discussed with you by the requesting doctor.

**How do I get my results?**
Your results will be sent to the doctor who referred you both electronically (if facilities are available) and in paper form. This may take up to 5 working days. You will then need to contact your referring doctor to have the results discussed with you.

No results can be given to you directly either in person or over the phone.

**Advisory Service and Results**
Please note we are unable to provide patients with results, these will be issued by the referring clinician. Results will be available on iLab or within 5 working days if a paper copy is issued. Clinical advice concerning a semen analysis can be given to clinicians between 9am and 3.00pm by contacting the Centre. The Laboratory Staff may be able to answer your question. If they are unable to help they will pass it on to a member of the Fertility Centre medical team.

**Where can I find more information?**
You can log on to:  [www.leicesterfertilitycentre.org.uk](http://www.leicesterfertilitycentre.org.uk)
You can call:  0116 258 5922

**Our commitment to patients**
We are constantly striving to improve our services to patients and we will welcome your comments or suggestions for improvement.

You can download a questionnaire at:  [www.leicesterfertilitycentre.org.uk](http://www.leicesterfertilitycentre.org.uk)

**Useful addresses:**
Mens fertility forum, mensfe.net/forum
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, [www.hfea.gov.uk](http://www.hfea.gov.uk)
The British Andrology Society, [www.britishandrology.org.uk/](http://www.britishandrology.org.uk/)
National Gamete Donation Trust,  [www.ngdt.co.uk](http://www.ngdt.co.uk)
NHS - Response line: 0870 1555 455
Our commitment to patients

We are constantly striving to improve our services to patients and we will welcome your comments or suggestions for improvement.

Leicester Fertility Centre Contact Details

Tel: 0116 2585922
E-mail: enquiries@leicesterfertilitycentre.org.uk
Fax: 0116 2587688
Website: www.leicesterfertilitycentre.org.uk

Useful addresses:

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority www.hfea.gov.uk
NICE guidelines: www.nice.org.uk
NHS - Response line: 0870 155 5455
NHS - Smoking Helpline: www.givingupsmoking.co.uk / 0116 295 4141
Infertility Network UK www.infertilitynetworkuk.com / 0800 0087464
National Gamete Donation Trust www.ngdt.co.uk / 0845 2269193
Do you feel that you are at risk of verbal or physical abuse? If so, you may find the following numbers useful:

Domestic Violence Helpline:

United against violence & abuse (UAVA)  0808 802 0028

This information was correct at the time of printing. While the Trust makes every reasonable effort to keep its information leaflets up to date, very recent changes may not be reflected in the guidance and you should discuss this with the clinical staff at the time of your appointment.
Questions

If you have any questions write them down here to remind you what to ask when you speak to your consultant.

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Date of Issue:  17/05/20          Doc 676 Issue 04          Review date: 17/05/2023
Approved by Jane Blower
Today’s research is tomorrow’s care

We all benefit from research. Leicester’s Hospitals is a research active Trust so you may find that research is happening when you visit the hospital or your clinic.

If you are interested in finding out how you can become involved in a clinical trial or to find out more about taking part in research, please speak to your clinician or GP.