

Andrology (Diagnostic Semen Analysis) Service

Information for Patients and Partners



What is the 'Regional Andrology (Diagnostic Semen Analysis) Service'?

The Leicester Fertility Centre Andrology – Diagnostic Semen Analysis Laboratory offers the following tests:

- **Diagnostic Semen Analysis:** A Diagnostic Semen Analysis may be the first investigation requested from a Healthcare Practitioner for individuals and couples having difficulty conceiving. The Andrology Laboratory assesses semen and sperm parameters to provide diagnostic information regarding a patient's sperm dysfunction and therefore potential causes of infertility.
- **Post Vasectomy Semen Analysis (PVSA):** A PVSA is performed to confirm the absence of spermatozoa from semen (indicative of a successful vasectomy operation) and is the post-operative management of the patient (given as the limit of quantification for the assessment method employed). A vasectomy (male sterilisation) is a surgical procedure to cut or seal the vas deferens from the testicles that transport sperm to permanently prevent pregnancy. There are strict pre-examination criteria for the examination for a PVSA. The minimum time requirement between the operation and analysis is 18 weeks, and the minimum number of emissions within this period is 20 ejaculates.
- **Retrograde Ejaculation Semen and Urine Analysis:** Retrograde ejaculation is a rarer type of ejaculation problem. It happens when semen travels backwards into the bladder instead of through the urethra. The main symptoms of retrograde ejaculation include: (a) producing no semen, or only a small amount, during ejaculation, and (b) producing cloudy urine (because of the semen in it) when you first go to the toilet after having sex. The laboratory will analyse the urine of patients following ejaculation (the sensation of ejaculation) for the presence of sperm and motility.

This NHS service is offered to but not limited to patients registered with a GP within Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, GEM Arden (Northampton, Nottingham, Derbyshire, and Lincolnshire), Peterborough and Cambridge areas. The Andrology Diagnostic Semen Analysis Laboratory is located at the Leicester Fertility Centre, Level 0 Kensington Building, Leicester Royal Infirmary, LE1 5WW.

The Andrology Laboratory is accredited to International Standards Organisation (ISO) 9001:2015 and is looking to become accredited to ISO:15189:2022 or ISO:23162:2021. This is a mark of achievement in quality management and 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) and provides a diagnostic analysis and information service for male patients about their semen (sperm) in accordance with World Health Organisation Guidelines.

Anybody wishing to have a private semen analysis can do so by contacting the Leicester Fertility Centre on 0116 258 5922 and booking an appointment. Please note there is a charge for this private service.

Appointments

NHS-funded (GP referral) semen analysis appointments can be booked by calling Leicester Fertility Centre on 0116 258 5922. Alternatively, appointments for **private** semen analysis can be made by calling the Laboratory at the Leicester Fertility Centre on **0116 258 5944**. Out of hours cover is only provided for urgent sperm banking referrals.

Who can access the service?

The Andrology (Diagnostic Semen Analysis) 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)
- Retrograde Ejaculation Semen Analysis
- Post Vasectomy Semen Analysis (NHS and Private)
- 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:

- British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS)
- Charnwood Medical Group
- Long Lane Surgery – Dr Pulman
- Latham House Medical Practice
- Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Provider Company Ltd
- North East Community Health Ltd
- SPIRE Hospitals Leicester
- University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust (UHL) - Urology CMG UHL (inclusive of Nuffield Hospital on behalf of UHL)
- Heatherbrook Surgery

Specimen Collection Requirements

To produce a sample, patients must obtain the following from their requesting clinician:

- Wide mouthed sterile sample pot with a metal screw top lid (not a universal container) and be labelled with patient's details (three patient identifiers),
- Leak proof sample bag,

- Request form with patient details, test required, clinical details and requesting physician,
- Semen analysis form (patient to complete top section),
- Current sample production instructions are available on our website: <https://www.leicesterfertilitycentre.org.uk/patients/andrology/>
- **Samples must be labelled with a minimum of three unique identifiers, including patient's surname, forename, and date of birth.**

Sample Production

1. Patient providing a **POST VASECTOMY SEMEN SAMPLE** should ensure that **18 weeks** and **20 ejaculates** have occurred since your operation.
2. All samples are to be **PRODUCED AT HOME** (unless otherwise stated and organised).
3. Please **WASH** your hands and penis thoroughly before producing the sample. Please **DO NOT USE ANY LUBRICANTS** as these are toxic to sperm.
4. We recommend that for optimum results you abstain from ejaculation for more than 2 full days but less than 7 days. **THE IDEAL PERIOD OF ABSTINENCE IS 2-3 DAYS.**
5. The sample should be collected by dry masturbation directly into the sterile container provided and should be complete i.e., the entire sample must be collected into the container.
6. 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. 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 from the fertility centre at a cost. Do not transfer a sample that has been collected in a normal condom into the pot, as the spermicide in the condom will kill many sperm.
7. The sample should arrive at the Centre **WITHIN 1 HOUR** of production of the sample. The sample should not be heated or cooled but kept roughly at **BODY TEMPERATURE E.G. IN A POCKET.**
8. If you have any questions / or to **BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT**, please contact the Leicester Fertility Centre on 0116 258 5922 or email andrology@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

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. 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 and semen analysis form (top half completed by patient) **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.

- If there are less than three patient identifiers present on the specimen collection pot, then the sample **SHOULD BE REJECTED**. It will be at the discretion of the Andrologist or Clinical Scientist to determine if the sample is to be analysed.
- Samples not received in designated containers **SHOULD BE REJECTED**.
- At present, samples received more than 60 minutes after **production SHOULD BE REJECTED**. However, it will be at the discretion of the Andrologist or Clinical Scientist to determine if the sample is to be analysed.
- Samples arriving with no request or referral form **WILL BE REJECTED**. Staff will check local electronic systems prior to making this decision.
- Samples that have leaked during transportation **SHOULD BE REJECTED**.
- Samples not produced by dry masturbation (no lubricant) **WILL BE REJECTED** unless produced by Withdrawal at Intercourse using a silastic condom (purchases through the clinic)
- **PVSA ONLY**: Samples that are not 'complete' **SHOULD BE REJECTED**.

What if my sample cannot be tested?

If the sample cannot be tested, you will be informed. If this is not done on your arrival, a copy of your request form will be made, and a note sent to your doctor as to why it has not been tested. Your doctor should then give you new instructions, a bag and a sample pot and asked you 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 electronically via Ilab or ICE. This usually takes up 7 to 10 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 (except for private semen analysis appointments).

Advisory Service and Results

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

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.

Andrology Semen Analysis **A B C**

When requesting a diagnostic semen analysis; think **Andrology A B C**

- A – ABSTINENCE** – IT IS ADVISED TO LEAVES A SEXUAL ABSTINENCE BETWEEN 2-7 DAYS BEFORE YOUR ANALYSIS.
- B – BOOK AN APPOINTMENT** – ENSURE YOU BOOK AN APPOINTMENT BEFORE ATTENDING (FOLLOWING THE LATEST INSTRUCTIONS
- C – CLINICIAN REQUEST FORM** – ENSURE YOU BRING THE REFERRAL / REQUEST FORM TO YOUR APPOINTMENT PROVIDED BY YOUR GP / HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL. NO REQUEST FORM COULD RESULT IN THE SAMPLE NOT BEING TESTED.

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: LFCinfo@uhl-tr.nhs.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: 111.nhs.uk / 111
NHS - Smoking helpline: 0300 123 1044
Fertility Network UK: www.fertilitynetworkuk.org / 0121 323 5025
Men's fertility forum: mensfe.net/forum

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)

Helpline: 0808 802 0028

Email: info@uava.org.uk

Text support: 07715 994 962



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.



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.

If you need information in a different language or format, please call the number(s) below or email equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔

على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل
જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

0116 258 4382 or 0116 250 2959