What is post vasectomy semen analysis?
Vasectomy is regarded as one of the safest and most effective forms of birth control. However, it is important that instructions are followed very carefully after your operation. Evidence has shown that immediately after the operation, most men will still produce semen which contains potentially fertile sperm. Most of the unplanned pregnancies which have occurred immediately after a vasectomy have been caused by men not using contraceptive precautions or not having post vasectomy semen analysis tests.

When do I have the tests?
Your GP or doctor who carried out the operation will ask you to provide a semen sample between 16 and 22 weeks after your operation.

There is a higher chance of finding sperm if you attend earlier than the recommended 16 weeks.

In order to make sure that the tubes from your testicles are cleared of remaining sperm you must have ejaculated at least 24 times after your operation before arranging for post vasectomy semen testing.

What if I don’t go for the tests?
Failure to attend for post vasectomy semen testing could, in the worst case, result in an unwanted/unplanned pregnancy. This is because it takes weeks for the tubes leading from your testicles to clear all of the remaining sperm, so there is a small chance of failure of the vasectomy. Your doctor or surgeon cannot take any responsibility if you do not have these tests.

What do I have to do now?
- Ensure that your referring doctor has given you a completed request form, sterile container and a specimen bag for the sample.

Telephone Cellular Pathology at King’s Mill Hospital on 01623 672382 to arrange an appointment to deliver your sample to the laboratory nearest to your home.

You will need to take the semen sample to the laboratory within two hours of production.

We are unable to accept any samples without an appointment.

If you have any questions about the test then Cellular Pathology will be pleased to answer these for you.
Appointments at King’s Mill Hospital are available on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons:

Cellular Pathology Department
King’s Mill Hospital
Mansfield Road
Sutton in Ashfield
Nottinghamshire NG17 4JL

Appointments at Newark Hospital are available on Monday mornings:

Pathology Department
Newark Hospital
Boundary Road,
Newark,
Nottinghamshire NG24 4DE

- You are required to **abstain from any sexual activity (masturbation or intercourse) for two to three days but no longer than seven days** prior to your appointment date to ensure that the best sample is obtained.

**How do I collect the sample?**

1. Make sure that your full name and date of birth are written on the sample container and warm the container to body temperature in a trouser or internal jacket pocket for about ten minutes.

2. Be hygienic – wash your hands and genitals. **Do not** wash the container.

3. Collect all of the semen produced by masturbating directly into the sample container. Do not use a contraceptive sheath or wash out the container as this will spoil the sample.

If you spill any part of the semen sample the test will be invalid, as this lost portion could have contained live sperm.

It is therefore essential that you are absolutely honest about how complete the sample is, as an incomplete sample could lead to inaccurate results and misinterpretation of the test.

4. Once the sample has been collected, please make sure that the lid is screwed on tightly. Write the time and date that the sample was collected on the container label and place the container in the specimen bag provided.

5. Ensure that you bring the fully completed request form with you to the laboratory as we are unable to accept your sample without this.

6. Please deliver the sample to the laboratory **within two hours of the sample being produced** and attend as close to your appointment time as possible. We regret that if you are more than 30 minutes late for your appointment, we may not be able to perform your test as the sample may be too old to give accurate results.

You should therefore give yourself ample time to arrive, especially if travelling by car as parking can sometimes be difficult.
7. Keep the sample close to your body in a trouser or internal jacket pocket whilst travelling to the laboratory as sperm are sensitive to extremes of temperature.

Where do I deliver the sample to?
The Cellular Pathology Department at King’s Mill Hospital is found by following the signs to the Bereavement Centre and the MRI Scanner. The Department’s main door is situated to the right just as you turn off the main corridor towards the Bereavement Centre and the MRI Scanner. Please press the call button to the right of the door and a member of staff will come down to check your details and take your sample from you.

There is a free 15 minute drop off/collection zone outside King’s Mill Hospital’s Main Reception and volunteers are available in the entrance foyer to give directions.

The Pathology Department at Newark Hospital is situated on the ground floor next to the Mercia Doughty Pre-operative Assessment Unit. When you arrive at Pathology you should take your sample to the delivery hatch at the reception. The staff will check your details and take the sample from you.

You are free to leave once you have handed in your sample as your results will be forwarded to your referring doctor.

How do I get my results?
Your results will normally be sent back to your referring doctor (GP or Consultant) approximately seven days after your test. Results are not given out over the telephone in order to protect patient confidentiality.

What happens to my samples after they have been tested?
Once we have tested your samples and sent results back to your referring doctor, we incinerate the remaining fluid.

How do I know you provide a quality service?
The Trust’s Pathology Department is inspected by Clinical Pathology Accreditation Ltd. We participate in the UK National External Quality Assurance Scheme (for both Semen Analysis and Sperm Motility) where our performance is monitored against national benchmarks.

Further sources of information
NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions
Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Patient Experience Team (PET)
PET is available to help with any of your comments, compliments or concerns and will ensure a prompt and efficient service.

King’s Mill Hospital Tel: 01623 672222
Newark Hospital Tel: 01636 685692
Email: PET@sfh-tr.nhs.uk

The Complaints Department
Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
King’s Mill Hospital
Mansfield Road
Sutton-in-Ashfield
Nottinghamshire NG17 4JL
Tel: 01623 672366 or 01623 676073  
Email: complaints@sfh-tr.nhs.uk

If you email us your complaint, please provide us with your own name, address and telephone contact details. If you are contacting us on behalf of a patient, please also provide us with the patient’s name and if possible, their date of birth.

If you need this information in a different language or format, please contact The Patient Experience Team as above.

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this publication, Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust cannot accept liability for errors and omissions. The information should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you.

External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them. Stating a web address does not imply we endorse a particular site. Neither does not stating a web address imply lack of endorsement.

If you require a full list of references for this leaflet, please email patient.information@sfh-tr.nhs.uk or telephone 01623 622515 ext 2715.

All of our hospitals are smoke free and as such you will not be able to smoke anywhere on site including the car parks, pathways and grounds. Please speak to a member of staff if you would like to stop smoking. We can offer advice and refer you to services that support smokers who want to cut down or stop completely.

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