

## Instructions for patients attending Andrology clinic for semen analysis:

**Where to find us:** Ground Floor, Area C Hammersmith Hospital (see map below)

**Do I need an appointment?** Yes

### How do I book an appointment if my consultant from within the Trust has referred me?

1. Please check that your doctor has already ordered your test (our hospital ordering system is known as Cerner).
2. We cannot perform your test unless your doctor has ordered it.
3. Click on the “**Book your test here**” link on our NWLP webpage [www.nwlp pathology.nhs.uk/specialist/andrology/](http://www.nwlp pathology.nhs.uk/specialist/andrology/)

### How do I book an appointment if my GP has referred me?

1. Your GP will complete and email both us and you a copy of your referral
2. Click on the “**Book your test here**” link on our NWLP webpage [www.nwlp pathology.nhs.uk/specialist/andrology/](http://www.nwlp pathology.nhs.uk/specialist/andrology/)

### Requirements for semen analysis

- You should have last ejaculated (masturbated or had sexual intercourse) between 48 to 168 hours (2 - 7 days) before you visit us.
- The semen sample should be collected by masturbation (manual stimulation) directly in to the specimen container provided with the lid removed for as short a time as possible.
- Our department will ONLY accept samples which have been collected in toxicity tested containers supplied by our department; no other specimen containers will be accepted.
- Lubricants cannot be used as they may contaminate your sample.
- If masturbation directly in to the specimen container is impossible for you, special non-toxic condoms (also known as semen collecting devices or SCD), can be purchased from our Hospital’s Pharmacy. If an SCD is used the semen should be decanted in to the specimen container as soon as possible. Please do not use a standard contraceptive condom to collect sperm as these are coated with substances which kill sperm.
- Withdrawal during intercourse is also not suitable for semen analysis purposes as the first part of the ejaculate which contains most of the sperm is easily lost.

- Producing your sample at home is only permitted in exceptional circumstances and only if you can deliver your sample to us within 30 minutes of it being produced. You will still need to visit our reception and collect a specific toxicity tested container (these are ONLY supplied by our department). This container must be kept at room temperature before use. Once your sample is collected, fluctuations in temperature affect sperm therefore it is important that whilst transporting your sample it is kept as close to your body as possible (e.g. under your clothes).

### How long will it take for my results to be available?

Results will be sent directly to your referring doctor within 1-2 weeks. We are not permitted to give results to patients directly.

