

Instructions for patients referred to Hammersmith Hospital Andrology clinic for semen analysis

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

Do I need an appointment? Yes

Booking an Appointment Step-by-Step:

✚ If your consultant from within the Trust referred you:

1. **Confirm your test has been ordered in Cerner** (our hospital's ordering system) before attempting to book.
2. If not ordered, contact your doctor to ensure the test is entered into the system.
3. Without a Cerner order, we cannot perform the test. Your appointment may be **cancelled** and will need to be rebooked.

✚ If your GP referred you:

1. Your GP must email the referral to: imperial.andrology.queries@nhs.net.
2. You should also be given a copy of the referral—either printed or emailed to you.
3. Please **bring your referral** with you or **confirm it has been emailed** before your appointment.
4. Without a referral, we cannot proceed. Your appointment may be **cancelled** and must be rebooked.

- ✚ Click on the “**Book your test here**” link on our NWLP webpage: [Andrology laboratory – Hammersmith Hospital \(office365.com\)](#)

Or scan the QR code below.



📣 Important Notice for Patients:

To maintain a safe and controlled environment for all patients: Children, minors and individuals under 18 years old who are not patients are not permitted in the department. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in ensuring a comfortable and secure space for our patients.

Important Patient Information prior Semen Analysis

Please read the following instructions for the collection of semen sample:

Abstain from sexual activity for 2–7 days (48-168 hours) before providing your sample. Less than 2 days or more than 7 days can affect the quality of the semen.

Wash hands and genitals thoroughly with soap and water, rinse, and dry completely before collecting the sample. This helps prevent contamination.

Collect the sample by masturbation only, directly into the **toxicity-tested container** provided by the Andrology Department. Remove the lid for as short a time as possible. **Do not use lubricants**, as they can harm sperm.

Provide **only one ejaculation per container**. If collecting onsite, the Andrology unit has **three private production rooms** available.

Only use the container supplied by the department. No other pots or containers (including those from home or other clinics) will be accepted.

If you can't collect via masturbation, ask reception for a **special non-toxic condom** (semen collecting device or SCD). **Do not use regular condoms**, as they contain sperm-killing agents. If using an SCD, decant the semen into the provided container as soon as possible.

Withdrawal during intercourse is not suitable, as the first part of the ejaculate (which contains the most sperm) may be lost.

Home collection is only allowed in exceptional cases and requires

- Collecting in the correct, department-issued container
- **Delivering the sample within 30 minutes**
- **Keeping it close to your body** (under your clothes) to maintain proper temperature.

For more information please read [Semen Analysis Leaflet](#) below.



Semen analysis

Andrology Department Hammersmith Hospital

Andrology department
Hammersmith Hospital Area C
South corridor
150 Du Cane Road
London W12 OHS

Please feel free to contact us with any queries you may have.

Opening times:

Staff are on site in our department 9.00am to 17.30pm Monday to Friday

Clinic doors open at **09.30 am**.

Last appointments for production of samples is **13.00**

Phone: **020 3313 4680**

Email: imperial.andrology.queries@nhs.net

Please note we are closed on bank holidays.

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Time sensitive test

Guidelines state that laboratory staff must test your sample within 60 minutes of production. For this reason, we have 3 production rooms available on site for you to produce your sample in a safe environment as well as maximizing the amount of time our staff have for testing your sample.

Can I produce my semen sample at home?

This is only permitted in rare circumstances as the sample must be delivered to us within 30 minutes of it being produced (we set a 30-minute limit which then gives our staff 30 minutes to test your sample).

If you have any questions about at home production please ask the receptionist.

When will my GP / consultant have my results?

Results are released two weeks after the sample was given and are available electronically for your clinician or GP (providing your GP practice has this function enabled). If your GP has not received your results they will need to email us to formally request them.



North West London Pathology

contact your GP and obtain a copy of the form before you can have the test.

Minimum criteria on GP referral form:

- ✚ your first name and surname
- ✚ your date of birth
- ✚ your NHS number
- ✚ your GP's details and practice code

If you been referred by your / your partner's consultant

The clinician should have requested this electronically on our Trust's computer system, so you don't need to bring any documentation with you.

If, for some reason, we cannot locate it or the request was not made, then you may need to attend on another date once your clinician has made this.

We no longer accept paper referrals from consultants within the Trust.

How to book an appointment with us

Your GP or clinician would have provided you with the link to our Andrology online bookings web page. You must have a booked appointment in order for us to see you in our department.

For further instructions please visit our website:

[Andrology - North West London Pathology \(nwlp pathology.nhs.uk\)](http://nwlp pathology.nhs.uk)

Depending on how many patients we're

seeing in clinic that day, you may need to wait a short while for one of our three production rooms to become vacant.

Important information

Guidelines recommend that the best time to produce a semen sample for fertility investigations is when you have not had sex or masturbated for between 48 and 168 hours. This is because it takes approximately two days for the semen to return to normal after ejaculation, and the semen will deteriorate again after 3 days without ejaculation

Your sample must be collected via masturbation without the use of any lubricant or saliva which will contaminate your sample.

The container

Guidelines recommend that your sample is collected into a non-toxic container which we will give you. Please **do not** use any container that you may have been given by your GP or consultant.

1. Once you have produced your sample please hand it in to the receptionist who will ask you: How many days has it been since you last ejaculated?
2. Was any of the sample spilt?
3. If spilt, was this the 1st or last part of the ejaculate?

These are important questions to aid clinician's when interpreting.

What is semen analysis?

Semen analysis is a test that examines a sample of your semen. In our lab, we look at your semen under a microscope to test how much sperm you have and how well that sperm is working.

Why do I need this test?

Semen analysis will help your doctors test your fertility. This test will show us:

- ✚ The volume of semen produced sperm count (how many sperm there are in each millimetre (ml) of semen)
- ✚ Total motility (how many sperm are moving)
- ✚ Progressive motility (how many sperm are moving really quickly)

We also test morphology (how many sperm look a perfect shape) but this is much less important than other tests in determining your fertility.

What do I need to bring to my appointment?

If you are referred by your GP they should have sent a copy of your referral to us and to you. Please bring this with you. **If no referral copy was given to you, please ensure you have confirmation by your GP that a copy was sent to us.** Without a referral we will not be able to process your sample and you will be asked to

