



# Patient Instructions: Testing Semen for Post-Vasectomy

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## How to Collect a Semen Sample for Post-Vasectomy Testing

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**For correct test results, follow these instructions carefully. Incorrect test results can cause an important medical problem to be missed, or the ordering of more or unneeded tests.**

**Before Collection:** Do not ejaculate (either through sexual intercourse or masturbating) for at least 3 days before collection.

**Collection:** Collect a sample in the sterile container provided by the laboratory or your doctor. Do not collect the sample in a condom. Condoms contain a powder that destroys spermatozoa.

**After collection:** **Sample will ONLY be accepted if:**

- 1) **Collected in sterile container** provided by laboratory or your doctor.
  - Container must be labeled with patient's first and last name **AND** Personal Health Number. **NOTE:** Tests will not be done if the specimen is not labeled correctly.
  - After collection, place the specimen back into the resealable plastic bag provided and place your requisition and this form in the outside pocket of the bag. Keep the sample at body temperature (for example, place in an inside pocket) from the time it is collected until it is delivered to the laboratory.
- 2) **Delivered to a Patient Service Centre in the Calgary area before 10:30 a.m. Monday to Friday or to Banff Mineral Springs Hospital Laboratory before 2:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.**
  - Samples will **not** be accepted at any other rural hospital laboratory, the Airdrie, Chestermere or Cochrane Patient Service Centres, or any Calgary hospital outpatient laboratory.
  - Samples will **not** be accepted on Saturdays, Sundays or statutory holidays.
  - Give directly to laboratory staff. **DO NOT** place sample on counter or in a drop off box.
- 3) **Delivered within one (1) hour of collection with completed questions (see below).**

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## Post-Vasectomy Patient Questions

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**Please answer the following questions and take this form with your sample to the laboratory. Results will be delivered to the ordering physician approximately 14 days after sample drop-off.**

1. Patient name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of collection: \_\_\_\_\_ Time of collection: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m.

2. Is the sample complete? Yes  No

3. Was the method of production masturbation? Yes  No

If no, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Masturbation is the preferred method of collection. A sample produced by a method other than masturbation is incomplete and cannot be analyzed fully. Samples collected by other methods will only be accepted under special circumstances and need approval from DSL (403-284-9410) before sample collection.

4. Number of days since you have had sexual intercourse or masturbated? \_\_\_\_\_ days

5. Date of vasectomy: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Doctor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions? Call the Laboratory Information Centre at 403-770-3600**