

Collecting a semen sample for analysis

Instructions for our patients

Your physician has ordered a laboratory test to examine seminal fluid for the presence and number of sperm. You can ensure the accuracy of this test by following these instructions.

Important: Read all instructions before beginning the collection process.

Collection procedure

1. Unless your physician tells you otherwise, collect the semen specimen after an interval of abstinence. That interval should be at least three days; or it can be much longer, depending upon what is normal for you.
2. Collect the semen into a clean, plastic, wide-mouth container that can be tightly sealed. You can get such a container from the laboratory. A laboratory supplied container is preferable because soaps, detergents and some plastics you may have at home can alter or kill the sperm within the semen. Do not use a condom for specimen collection. Condoms contain a sperm-immobilizing agent that will make the analysis invalid.
3. Write your name, date and time of collection on the container.
4. Deliver the specimen to the laboratory within one hour of collection. Transport the container in a clothing pocket or other place close to your body to maintain body temperature. Protect it from extreme temperatures and direct light.
5. Please be prepared to answer the following questions when delivering your semen sample:
 - Name of any OB/GYN patient associated with the sample
 - Method of semen collection
 - Number of days of abstinence
 - Any unusual problems with transport or collection
 - Full or partial specimen collection

Laboratory collection

Semen specimens may also be collected on-site at the hospital laboratory. Call one of the laboratories listed below for the hours that are best suited for semen analysis.

Samaritan Albany General Hospital
(541) 812-4150

Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center
(541) 768-5059

Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital
(541) 451-7135

Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital
(541) 996-7176

Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital
(541) 574-1812