

# Semen Analysis

The semen analysis is used to evaluate the fertility of the male partner. Information including the number of sperm, their motility and structure, and the volume of the semen sample is obtained. Additional tests can be performed when indicated to culture the semen for infection, evaluate sperm penetration, and detect antisperm antibodies.

The laboratory is equipped with collection rooms for comfort and privacy. Patients are encouraged to use these facilities. Research indicates that the length of time from specimen collection to processing can affect results. The collection and handling of the specimen can have a profound effect on the test results. It is very important that instructions are followed carefully.

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## **Patient Instructions:**

- 1. Semen analysis is done during certain hours at selected offices only.** Offices have collection hours and require an appointment. **Please bring along a picture ID.** Contact your office for details.
- 2. Abstain from ejaculation for a least 2 days (48 hours) but no more than 5 days before producing the specimen.** The length of abstinence can vary depending on the test being performed. Please confirm details with your office.
- 3. The specimen should be obtained by masturbation. Do not use a condom or withdrawal. Do not use any soaps, detergents, creams or lubricants to aid collection. These agents can damage the sperm. Your partner may assist, but try to avoid oral or vaginal stimulation.**
- 4. Ejaculate directly into the sterile specimen container provided by your office or the laboratory. If there is any spillage, let the lab know that it occurred at the beginning or end of collection. If you are asked to produce a split ejaculate, collect the specimen in 2 portions in 2 separate containers. Check with your office for specific instructions.**
- 5. Write your name and your partner's name, your social security number and your date of birth, and your physician's name on the container. The date and time the specimen was produced and the number of days of sexual abstinence must also be written on the label.**

**Note: All semen samples must be collected at the office, unless otherwise discussed and prearranged with you're physician or the laboratory.**