

## Fertility Studies: Specimen Collection

Northwest Hospital Laboratory recommends the following collection procedure for patients submitting semen samples for fertility studies. This will provide the physician with the most accurate fertility information possible.

### PROCEDURE

1. Obtain a clean container from the laboratory.
2. Collection of the semen should be obtained by masturbation. Withdrawal at intercourse may result in low sperm recovery. Condoms are not an acceptable means of collection. *It is strongly suggested that the semen sample be collected following a 3-day period of abstinence.* Results may be inaccurate and are potentially misleading when collection is incomplete or the period of abstinence is longer than or shorter than three days.
3. Write the following on the label of the collection container:
  - Your name
  - Date of Birth
  - Date and time of collection
4. Bring the specimen to the laboratory as soon as possible after its collection; within 30 minutes for the best evaluation, but in no case after more than two (2) hours. It is essential that the semen specimen is not subjected to temperature extremes. Maintain the specimen at body temperature (for example, place the container in an inner pocket close to your body). *Under no circumstances is the specimen to be refrigerated.*
5. The laboratory accepts specimens for fertility analysis between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., *Monday through Friday only.* The laboratory is located on the second floor of UW Medicine/Northwest Hospital & Medical Center. Enter through the main hospital entrance and take the elevator or stairs to the second floor. Go to the lab reception area for registration and/or specimen drop-off. Please call the laboratory at 368-1776 with any questions.

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(Detach here and return to the laboratory with the specimen)

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Collection: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Collection: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Last Ejaculation: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Collection &

Type of Container: \_\_\_\_\_

Collection/Transport Problems: \_\_\_\_\_  
(e.g., incomplete specimen, exposure to temperature extremes)

Associated Partners Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Related Document: [#7260 – Semen Analysis for Fertility Screening](#)