

Patient Instructions for the Collection and Transport of Semen Specimens

Semen specimens are collected for post-vasectomy evaluation, and may be collected at home, at Central DuPage Hospital facilities or at the physician's office if so directed. A satisfactory specimen may be collected by masturbation or during intercourse with the use of a special non-spermicidal plastic pro-ception sheath, which may be supplied by the patient's physician. The use of a commercial condom is not satisfactory because the powder or lubricants used in their manufacture may be spermicidal. The plastic sheath is to be placed into a clean, dry container from which all traces of detergents and contaminants have been removed. The specimen may also be collected by masturbation directly into a clean, dry container. It is essential that the entire specimen be collected because even a small portion lost at either the beginning or end of ejaculation may affect the results of the analysis.

Only specific containers are acceptable for the collection and submission of semen specimens. The following are guidelines for container types, their characteristics and their acceptability for semen collection:

Acceptable containers: These do not affect semen analysis results. These may be available from the physician's office or the hospital Outpatient Laboratory Department. An appropriate container may also be brought from the patient's home.

1. Clean, washed, dry glass jar with lid.
2. Clean, washed, dry polypropylene plastic container, with lid (i.e., a non-sterile urine container with lid). This is flexible plastic and will bend or flex easily when compressed.

Non-acceptable containers: These do affect semen analysis results.

1. Polystyrene plastic and/or polystyrene foam container. This is a rigid, brittle plastic and will crack or crumble when compressed.

A specimen collected at home must be kept warm, protected from extreme hot or cold temperature (i.e., carried in an inside pocket) and brought to the laboratory within two hours of collection.

This procedure for specimen collection and time of delivery may be modified by individual physicians. The sperm motility may be depressed in specimens delivered to the lab two hours after collection, but this may not be of significance to the physician who is looking for only the presence or absence of sperm post-vasectomy.

Specimens for post-vasectomy evaluation are accepted at the Outpatient Laboratory at Central DuPage Hospital during the following days/hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday	6:30 am - 5:00 pm
Tuesday, Thursday	6:30 am - 6:30 pm
Saturday	8:00 am - 1:00 pm
Sunday	9:00 am - 12:00 pm

The patient's name, date of birth, date and time of collection should be noted on the specimen container.

If you have any questions, please call HealthLab Client Services at 630.933.2633