

## SEMEN ANALYSIS FOLLOWING REVERSAL OF VASECTOMY

The laboratory assessment of the quality of semen is a vital factor in fertility. We appreciate that being asked to produce a semen sample to order for the purpose of investigation may be difficult or embarrassing.

### **How to arrange for Semen Analysis**

The samples are analysed in the Pathology laboratories at the Spire Hospital Bristol. Please phone the Spire Hospital Laboratory (0117 980 4072) at least a week before you want to bring in your sample to arrange a convenient date and time (9am – 4pm) for your sample to be received.

### **Instructions for the production of the semen sample**

In order to assess sperm at maximum quality please do not have sexual intercourse or masturbate for 2-3 days, but no more than 5 days before producing the sample. The sperm sample should be produced by masturbation into a special container (provided by the Hospital).

Please carefully note the following:

- Most of the sperm in an ejaculate is in the first portion, therefore if you collect the sample by interrupting intercourse, it is likely that this will be lost.
- Please do not produce samples into condoms for analysis as these contain spermicides that destroy sperm.
- Should some of the ejaculate fail to enter the container please do not submit that sample for analysis.

## **Delivery of your sample to the Hospital**

The sample should be taken (after making an appointment) directly to the Reception at the Spire Hospital.

It is important that semen samples are analysed quickly after production, as sperm begin to die quite rapidly outside the body. Deliver your sample as quickly as possible, at most within 1 ½ hours of production.

Keep the sample warm by carrying it upright in an inside pocket, but do not keep it too hot. Please label the container CLEARLY with your full name and date of birth, and the date and time the sample was produced.

## **Results**

The results should be available within 7-10 days of the test. Occasionally the test needs to be repeated if the results are abnormal.