The Hull Andrology Unit

Information Booklet

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East Riding Fertility Services Limited (Company Reg. No. 2951094)
Trading as "The Hull Andrology Unit"
Hull & East Riding Fertility
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HU13 0JA

Tel: 01482 689040
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The Hull Andrology Unit

Welcome

East Riding Fertility Services Limited (Company Reg. No. 2951094) (**ERFS**) trading as "Hull and East Riding Fertility" has an associated specialist andrology laboratory, "The Hull Andrology Unit". Here, we offer preliminary investigations for male subfertility problems such as diagnostic semen evaluation. Upon request we carry out more specialised infertility tests including tests for anti-sperm antibodies and vitality. We also carry out post vasectomy semen analysis to confirm the success of vasectomy procedures.

This service took over from the Hull & East Yorkshire NHS Trust pathology service in January 2009. It will offer continuity of care for those patients who may go on to have fertility treatment in the future. Benefits include the reassurance offered by the ERFS's registration with the:

- HFEA (Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority)
- ISO15189 accreditation (International Organisation for Standardisation) Ref: 8690.
- ISO15189 (International Organisation for Standardisation) A UKAS accredited testing laboratory No. 8690. All tests not UKAS accredited, for test accreditation status see below* or the scope of testing displayed on the UKAS website 8690 Medical Single (ukas.com)
- ISO9001 accreditation (International Organisation for Standardisation)
- NEQAS (National external quality assurance scheme)

We offer a high standard of care and work in compliance with guidelines set out by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the British Fertility Society (BFS) and the Association of Reproductive and Clinical Scientists (ARCS). We also take part in regular internal and external quality control schemes to ensure a standardised, high-quality service is provided.

* **Accredited tests:**

- Semen volume
- Sperm concentration
- Sperm motility
- Sperm morphology (excluding TZI scoring)
- Semen pH
- Post-vasectomy sperm detection

* **Non - Accredited tests:**

- Anti-sperm antibodies
- Sperm vitality

Meet the team

Our Andrology team consists of a Clinical Andrologist and 5x Clinical Embryologists who are all fully trained in semen analysis and participants of the NEQAS quality assurance scheme. They are qualified to provide clinical interpretation of results and advice. Interpretive comments will be offered on reports however if you wish to discuss individual cases further please contact Hull & East Riding Fertility.

The Hull Andrology Unit is closely linked to Hull and East Riding Fertility.

Our friendly and experienced IVF team consists of specialist doctors, nurses, embryologists and administration staff.

Person Responsible to the HFEA:	Ellen Armstrong BSc, FRCPath
Laboratory Director & Quality Manager:	Dr Christine Leary BSc, PhD, FRCPath
Andrology Lead:	Laura Mason BSc, MMedSci, FRCPath
Clinical Andrologist:	Emily Roxburgh BSc, MSc, HCPC

All members of staff can be reached through Hull and East Riding Fertility on 01482 689040.

Our Aim

We aim to deliver safe, skilled care in a professional, caring manner, involving our patients in all aspects of treatment and decision making.

Statement of purpose

We aim to provide financially viable private facilities and services for the investigation and treatment of couples having difficulty conceiving.

This provision will be of the standard and quality, which is perceived by its patients to match their expectations for excellence of service, which is seen to offer good value for money and which meets the full criteria laid down by its registered bodies, ISO15189 and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority.

Quality Policy

The aim of the management and staff is to continue to provide a service of the highest quality, ethical, professional, clinical and scientific practice.
The quality of service offered has a direct influence on the Unit's ability to meet patient's expectations. The Unit endeavours to work with patients to define expectations, and meet or exceed them through offering services which are effective, efficient and safe.

The Unit has a policy of not pursuing the use of investigations or treatment which do not have an established value in improving outcomes, unless they are part of a research project.

The Unit's Quality Policy reflects these ongoing commitments and can be viewed on the website.

www.hulleastridingfertility.co.uk/about/quality-regulation

Information Governance

Hull and East Riding Fertility operates an information governance policy equivalent to ISO27001 to ensure protection of personal information.

Confidentiality

Management of patient information shall include privacy and confidentiality. Unless the patient/user has been informed in advance and an agreement is in place with the Andrology laboratory, all information is considered protected and regarded as confidential.

Patients with special needs

Please let us know as soon as possible if you have any special care needs. We endeavour to provide the best care possible in an environment suited to your needs. We may need to make adjustments to layout prior to your appointments. We can normally arrange most services or equipment quite quickly to ensure your experience is a positive one.

If English is not your first language and you feel you would benefit from an interpreter, this can be offered by prior arrangement.

Arabic:
إذا لم تكن اللغة الإنجليزية هي لغتك الأولى وتشعر أنك ستستفيد من مترجم فوري، فيمكننا ترتيب ذلك مسبقا.

Kurdish (Sorani):
ئەگەر زمانی ئینگلیزی زمانی سەرەکی تۆ نیە و پێت وایە سود لە وەرگێڕ وەردەگریت، ئەمە دەتونرێت بە داواکردنی پێشوەختە ڕێکبخرێت.

Romanian:
Dacă engleza nu este limba dumnevoastră maternă și considerați că ați avea nevoie de un interpret, acesta vă poate fi oferit prin acord prealabil.

Polish:
Możemy zorganizować tłumacza po wcześniejszym uzgodnieniu tej kwestii, jeśli język angielski nie jest Twoim językiem ojczystym i uważasz, że warto skorzystać z pomocy tłumacza.

Russian:
Если английский не является вашим родным языком и вам удобнее общаться через переводчика, можно организовать это по предварительной договорённости.

Feedback/complaints

The Hull Andrology Unit strives to provide a high level of service to users and patients. We value your opinions and would appreciate feedback on the service. Patients receive a questionnaire following their appointment and the information provided is used to enhance the patient experience. Improvements to the service are communicated to users via our newsletter and social media. All feedback is anonymous unless you request a personalised response.

If users or patients wish to help us develop the service or have a complaint please contact the Unit and we would be happy to discuss this further. As part of our ongoing commitment to customer service, we have a policy of dealing with all complaints to the satisfaction of our users/patients. Complaints should be emailed to the Unit for the attention of the 'complaints officer'. Acknowledgement will be issued within 2 working days and a full response within 20 working days. Any issues that cannot be resolved can be referred to the independent health service ombudsman.

Declaration of ethical conduct

The Hull Andrology Unit has no commercial or financial interest or other pressures pertaining to the activities undertaken and advice given. Samples and information are treated according to the relevant legal requirements.

Recommendations for further investigations are based on best practice guidance advising patients are seen by a clinician with specialist interest in subfertility.

Covid-19 pandemic

During the Covid-19 pandemic, rest assured that the team at the Hull Andrology Unit are taking every measure possible to ensure the safety of both the patients and staff attending the Unit. All changes that have been made are to ensure we minimise any risk to both patients and staff and to ensure we are following all national and local guidance in relation to Covid-19. As guidance changes, we will adapt our working practices in response.

Patients will be expected to book their sample drop-off time via our online booking system via **https://www.hulleastridingfertility.co.uk/bookings**. If you have not booked an appointment then your sample will not be processed. This change to booked appointments only will be permanent. This is to minimise the likelihood of patients congregating in the small Andrology reception and to ensure adequate cleaning and disinfection regimes can be carried out between patients.

We ask that you **DO NOT** attend the Andrology Unit if you or members of your household are self-isolating, displaying symptoms of the Coronavirus or have recently tested positive for the Coronavirus. This is to protect other patients and our staff.

Training

Within the request card, there is an option to object to your sample being used for training purposes. The purpose of training is to aid Andrology and Embryology staff to train in various areas of scientific advancement and quality assurance. These include:

- Quality control tests e.g. sperm toxicity testing, control tests, lower levels of detection.
- New products brought to the market.
- Validation/verification.

Patient consent

By providing a semen sample to the laboratory, either by producing the sample on site or by dropping off a sample produced elsewhere, the patient is consenting to the laboratory testing the sample for the purpose stated on the request form. This may include assessing fertility or confirming whether a vasectomy has been successful. The patient also consents to the laboratory releasing the test results to their GP and/or referring consultant, as appropriate. The sample request form also includes a separate section asking whether the patient consents to their sample being used for training purposes. Patients are free to select Yes or No. This decision is entirely voluntary, and either response will not affect the patient's treatment, care or test results in any way.

How to contact us

Opening Hours

The Hull Andrology Unit is open at the following times:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8:15 – 14:00 (excluding Bank Holidays).

Samples will be accepted during these hours through a **booked appointment only** (book via **www.hulleastridingfertility.co.uk/bookings**). This is to ensure a safe environment for other patients and staff.

Samples will not be accepted outside of these hours, unless by prior arrangement or due to temporary agreed extending opening times.

Contact Information

The Hull Andrology Unit
Hull & East Riding Fertility
Hesslewood Office Park
Ferriby Road
Hessle
HU13 0JA

Telephone: 01482 689040

Email: andrology@hullfertility.co.uk

Alternatively, out of Andrology hours we can be contacted via Hull and East Riding Fertility on 01482 689040, there is an answering machine service after 4.00pm.

General, non urgent enquiries can be emailed to enquiries@hullfertility.co.uk.



Please note we are unable to provide patients with results, these will be issued by your referring GP. Results will be available on ICE, Lorenzo or SystmOne the next working day or within 5-7 working days if a paper copy is issued. Clinical advice can be given to GPs between 8.30am and 4.00pm by contacting Hull and East Riding Fertility.

Where applicable, please refer to our website for current information on treatment costs at www.hulleastridingfertility.co.uk/fees.

How to find us

The Hull Andrology Unit is located on the ground floor of Hull and East Riding Fertility, on Hesslewood Office Park, Ferriby Road, Hessle, HU13 0JA. The clinic is located about 7 miles west of the city centre train and bus stations, and is easily accessed from the A63 Clive Sullivan Way.

Sample acceptance policy

It is the responsibility of the requestor to ensure that samples are pre-booked online via **www.hulleastridingfertility.co.uk/bookings**, correctly labelled and request forms completed to the required standard.

All samples and request cards MUST have sufficient information on to allow unequivocal identification of the patient that the sample has come from, to ensure that the sample and card relate to the same person, to identify which tests need doing and any other requirements.

Inadequately labelled or unlabelled samples will not be analysed.

Essential Requirements	Desirable Requirements
Samples and request forms MUST be labelled with: Full name and DOB of patient PLUS it must be possible to confirm one of the following; Hospital record number / NHS number, Address The request form data MUST match the above information on the sample Forms MUST detail the Identification and location of requestor. A sperm toxicity tested sample pot.	Test required Date and time of sample Contact number for requestor Relevant clinical information Patient signature that the sample is their own Patient consent in / out of use for training purposes. A complete sample (relevance determined by test requested). An abstinence of 48 hours to 7 days. A pre-weighed sample pot.

Due to medico-legal considerations; all inadequately labelled samples/ cards will require identification and verification prior to processing. The laboratory may not conduct some analyses if essential information is lacking. In addition, if desirable information items are omitted then it may not be possible to issue a report or to interpret the results. Appropriate comments will be made on the report.

Sample reporting policy

The Hull Andrology Unit will ensure that all sample reports are complete and accurate in all material respects however, the Hull Andrology Unit can only evaluate and perform testing on the samples provided and is therefore dependent on the patient providing satisfactory samples (as per the Acceptance Policy set out above). Where unsuitable samples are provided the Hull Andrology Unit will report this to the commissioning GP/ Consultant and will not evaluate and/or perform testing on the unsatisfactory samples due to the risk of providing inaccurate results.

Patient test results are made available to the commissioning GP/ Consultant in accordance with Data Protection Legislation (as in force from time to in the United Kingdom in relation to patient data).

Upon completion of sample testing such samples will be destroyed unless otherwise agreed in writing or required to be retained to comply with Data Protection Legislation. For this reason, no further testing is possible and a repeat sample would be required for any additional tests.

The Hull Andrology Unit will ensure that it has appropriate insurance in place in respect of its provision of the andrology services as set out in this Information Booklet. For the avoidance of doubt, the Hull Andrology Unit is not responsible for any patient's spouse or partner's future pregnancy following the patient's reliance on the results of any sample testing. A post vasectomy sample can only be tested for the presence or absence of spermatozoa in the semen at the time of the provision of the andrology services and the Hull Andrology Unit gives no warranties as to whether the patient's semen will remain absent of spermatozoa or as to whether the patient could potentially still be fertile following an individual patient report which shows the absence of spermatozoa in the sample.

Further for the avoidance of doubt, the Hull Andrology Unit is not responsible for any patient's fertility or their spouse or partner's ability to conceive following receipt of the results of a basic diagnostic infertility semen analysis (INF), special infertility semen analysis (SINF) and/or assisted reproduction techniques (ARTs). All and any of the INF, SINF and ARTs tests can only be carried out on the sample provided and any individual patient reports of the results of the sample testing should be read and construed in conjunction with the patient's medical history and the Hull Andrology Unit gives no warranties as to whether a positive report demonstrates fertility or will result in the spouse or partner being able to conceive.

Limitations of tests and clinical advice

Clinical advice is available to GPs, upon request. Information can be provided on interpretation of decision limits, including associated measurements of uncertainty. Factors which can influence semen parameters, such as environmental and modifiable lifestyle factors, can lead to variability in results. Sample acceptance criteria are in place to standardise results and minimise variability. Non-conformance can render the result invalid.

There is a risk of relying on one sample as representative of patient result due to biological variability. GPs should refer to the 'access to infertility treatment commissioning policy for Yorkshire and Humber' for further guidance on appropriate testing prior to referral. It is recommended that semen analysis results are valid for one year from the date of testing.

Fertility problems affect 1 in 7 couples and approximately half of this can be attributed to male factor infertility.

Information for General Practitioners and Consultants- *Diagnostic semen analysis and Special Infertility Testing*

The Hull Andrology Unit has close associations with Hull and East Riding Fertility and therefore we feel that by offering the Andrology service we are able to offer continuity of care for patients who may need further treatment. We are a team of qualified Clinical Embryologists and an Andrologist who are fully trained in semen analysis and have applied knowledge of interpreting test results. By providing this service we can offer advice and support to GPs and Consultants on the clinical significance of findings. Immediate advice and action can be available for patients that may require further specialist follow up and to avoid possible later invasive surgical retrieval methods. Follow-up areas include culture and sensitivity testing, microbiological assessment of haematospermia, urological assessment or recommendations for subfertility referral.

Please note that we advise where there is a need to establish a chain of custody e.g. legal/forensic cases, samples should be produced 'on-site'.

How to refer a patient for a semen evaluation

- Each patient will need a Hull Andrology request card (version 2024), a specimen container (specific to semen testing) and a bag. The cards can be downloaded from the website. To order the specimen pots and bags please call 01482 674715.
- The card needs to be fully completed. The card must include the male patient's **full name, date of birth** and **NHS number**. You must also provide your **own name**, **practice stamp** and **signature**.
- Please provide clinical information/the type of test required. By providing clinical information, such as if the patient has had a previous analysis, this allows us to provide useful interpretive comments and further advice.
- If a patient has or is suspected to have retrograde ejaculation, please contact the Hull Andrology Unit for further advice.
- Please re-iterate to the patients that samples are only accepted at the Hull Andrology Unit on Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 8:15 -14:00 (excluding bank holidays). **Patients must book a sample drop-off appointment** online via www.hulleastridingfertility.co.uk/bookings in order to secure a time slot. If the patient does not book an appointment in advance, unfortunately the sample will not be processed.
- A complete sample from a single ejaculate is required.
- Patients need to be advised on measures to prevent contamination of the sample i.e. secure the lid to prevent leakage, the outside of the container is free from contamination and place in a secondary container (specimen bag).
- A room is available for booking, however this is an exceptional circumstances only i.e. if patients are unable to deliver a fertility sample for assessment within 45 minutes. The room can be booked by calling the Unit or via the online booking system, these appointments are on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at specific times.
- **Andrology staff reserve the right not to accept samples with incomplete request cards. It is essential that correct identification of the patient and GP/consultant can be made for confidentiality reasons.**
- **Please note – we do not accept high risk samples from patients who are known to be viral positive.**

How to refer a patient for Special Infertility Testing

- Please follow the guidance for 'diagnostic semen analysis' with the exception of the following:
    - Each patient will need a Hull Special Infertility Investigation Card provided by Hull and East Riding Fertility.
    - Samples are only accepted for analysis on a **specific days and times by a pre-booked appointment (by calling the Unit or via the online booking system).**
    - The samples are produced on-site via a pre-booked appointment.

Results

- Results will be reported via ICE. Some GPs will also receive paper copies (if this service has been previously arranged). Results should be available within 5-7 working days. Please let us know if you are continually experiencing problems retrieving results.
- Some Special Infertility Testing is available via the private sector – these will be reported to the Consultant's secretary within 5-7 working days via email.
- Occasionally results can not be reported. This may be because the GPs name is not on the card, the card is not signed or the patient's details are not fully completed.
- Occasionally the sample is unsuitable for analysis. You will be informed of this.
- If you have any problems obtaining results please call the Andrology unit during opening times.
- A repeat analysis may be advisable for a number of reasons. If the sample parameters are significantly reduced, patients have not followed the correct instructions or the sample is produced/delivered outside of opening times or without a pre-booked appointment. Please see our acceptance policy above.
- If a poor result has been confirmed, these patients may benefit from a referral to the subfertility clinic at Hull Royal Infirmary or may wish to make a private appointment with a fertility specialist at Hull and East Riding Fertility to discuss this further.

Rejection criteria

Common reasons for not processing samples include;

- Incomplete request cards
- The sample leaking
- The sample arriving outside of opening hours/without a pre-booked appointment.
- The sample arriving over 45 minutes from the time of production.

Interpretation of results

All evaluations are carried out in accordance to WHO (World Health Organisation) guidelines. From 6th March 2023 onwards, the WHO (2021) Laboratory Manual for the Examination and Processing of Human Semen (Sixth Edition) decision limits and guidelines are adhered to. This will ensure we are working in accordance with Best Practice Guidelines and offering the highest level of treatment to our users and patients. Prior to 2023 the WHO (2010) reference limits were used. Please refer to the website for further information on reference values.

Every measurement will be subject to a margin of doubt. The level of doubt surrounding the true value can be described by the 'uncertainty of measurement'. When comparing a patient's result with the biological reference limits, the Consultant should be made aware of the uncertainty of measurement (see table). For example, a patient may attend for semen analysis and have a sperm concentration of 16 M/ml and then attend for a repeat evaluation and attain a result of 18 M/ml. These two results are not significantly different as they fall within the

"uncertainty of measurement" values (±3.29M/ml) (with a level of confidence (CI) of approximately 95%). These differences may be due to random or systematic errors in the laboratory (such as calibration of equipment, operator differences etc). Only a result outside of the result ± the uncertainty measurement would be of clinical significance rather than due to chance.

Measurement	**Value**
Concentration (M/ml)	16M/ml ± 3.29
Total Motility (%)	42% ± 7.68
Progressive Motility (%)	30% ± 4.52
Morphology (%)	4% ± 0.88
Volume (ml)	1.4ml ± 0.42

When monitoring a patient, a Consultant may wish to know if the current patient's result is significantly different with regard to the previous one. Approximately, a 10% difference may be expected when comparing two successive semen evaluations for concentration or motility. The laboratory team will be happy to advise on this.

Information for General Practitioners and Consultants- *Post-vasectomy semen analysis*

A team of fully trained Embryologists and an Andrologist carry out Post Vasectomy semen evaluations to confirm the presence or absence of sperm. All samples are analysed in accordance to the latest best practice standards set. The Guidelines recommend that initial assessment should be undertaken a minimum of 12 weeks post vasectomy and after the patient has produced at least 20 ejaculates. Patients should be advised to continue contraception until clearance is granted Hancock *et al*. (2016).

How to refer a patient for a post-vasectomy semen analysis

- Patients should be supplied with fully completed referral card(s) (version 2024), semen specimen container(s) (specific to semen testing) and bag(s). The cards can be downloaded from the website. To order the specimen pots and bags please call 01482 674715.
- The card must be fully completed. The card must include the male patient's **full name**, **date of birth** and **NHS number**. You must also provide the **date of vasectomy**, **your own name**, **practice stamp** and **signature**, along with the **type of test** required. Please ask the patient to complete the appropriate fields for **abstinence period**, whether the sample was **complete** and **date/time of production**. As standard a comment will be made on the report stating "*This result is only valid if all of the clinical information is complete*."
- It is recommended that patients should undergo abstinence for no less than 48 hours and no more than 7 days and the time from production to examination of the sample should be no longer than **3 hours.**
- The **complete** sample is required from a single ejaculate.
- Patients bringing the sample in for analysis should drop the sample at the Hull Andrology Unit on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 8:15 and 14:00 (excluding bank holidays). **Patients must book a sample drop-off appointment** online via www.hulleastridingfertility.co.uk/bookings in order to secure a time slot. If the patient does not book an appointment in advance, unfortunately the sample will not be processed.
- Patients need to be advised on measures to prevent contamination of the sample i.e. secure the lid to prevent leakage, the outside of the container is free from contamination and place in a secondary container (specimen bag).
- Samples will only be accepted when brought directly to the Andrology Unit within the recommended time frame and will **not** be accepted from the GP run.
- **Andrology staff reserve the right not to accept samples with incomplete request cards. It is essential that correct identification of the patient and GP can be made for confidentiality reasons.**
- **Please note – we do not accept high risk samples from patients who are known to be viral positive.**

Results

- Results will be reported via ICE within 5-7 working days. Some GPs/ Consultants will also receive paper copies (if this service has been previously arranged). Please let us know if you are continually experiencing problems retrieving results.
- Occasionally results can not be reported. This may be because the GPs name is not on the card, the card is not signed, the patient's details are not fully completed or the referring doctor is not on the Labcentre system.

- If you have any problems obtaining results please call the Unit during opening hours.
- Samples will be processed using the fixed depth slide methodology.

The following results may be reported:

Nomenclature	Fixed depth slides
NOSC	No spermatozoa seen
VOCC	<160 sperm/ml
OCC	≤2000 sperm/ml
Count required	Total spermatozoa count

If persistent sperm are found in a patient's samples, it is essential that the patient brings further samples directly to the Andrology laboratory **within 45 minutes** of production. This is to ensure we can exclude the presence of potentially fertilising motile sperm. A room is available for booking if patients are unable to deliver a fertility sample within 45 minutes. The room can be booked by calling Hull and East Riding Fertility.

Rejection criteria

Common reasons for not processing samples include;

- Incomplete request cards
- The sample leaking
- The sample arriving outside of opening hours/without a pre-booked appointment.
- An incomplete semen sample.

Interpretation of results

All evaluations are carried out in accordance to 2016 Laboratory guidelines for post vasectomy semen analysis: Association of Biomedical Andrologists, the British Andrology Society and the British Association of Urological Surgeons.

Every measurement will be subject to a margin of doubt. The level of doubt surrounding the true value can be described by the 'uncertainty of measurement'. It is recognised that during post-vasectomy analysis that sources of uncertainty may arise from several sources. The following sources of variation are sometimes/always involved in post-vasectomy analysis and have a value of uncertainty: air displacement pipettes and positive displacement pipettes.

Using fixed depth slide analysis, a patient may attend for analysis and have a sperm concentration of 100,000 sperm/ml and then attend for a repeat evaluation and attain a result of 102,000 sperm/ml. These two results are not significantly different as they fall within the "uncertainty of measurement" values (± 3125 sperm/ml) defined by U with a level of confidence (CI) of approximately 95 %. These differences may be due to random or systematic errors in the laboratory (such as calibration of equipment, operator differences etc). Only a result outside of the 3125 sperm/ml uncertainty measurement would be of clinical significance rather than due to chance.

Measurement	**Value**
Concentration (ml)	100,000ml ± 3125

Patient Information – *Diagnostic semen analysis and special infertility testing*

Male factor infertility is a common phenomenon affecting approximately 50% of all subfertile couples. The diagnostic semen analysis examines several parameters to allow us to judge the quality of a semen sample. It looks at the sperm count (number of sperm), motility (how well the sperm are moving) and normal forms (how the sperm are shaped). These are all factors that if they fall below certain levels could have an impact on how long it takes to achieve a pregnancy or whether it is possible to conceive a child naturally.

PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU ARE HAVING SPECIAL INFERTILITY TESTING THEN PLEASE REFER TO THE CORRECT SECTION BELOW.

Diagnostic semen analysis request card

- A request card must be obtained from your GP or Consultant along with a sterile, semen specimen pot and bag. The card should be fully completed and contain the type of test required, name, health surgery and signature of the Doctor requesting the test as well as your name, date of birth and NHS number.
- Please record the **time** and **date of collection**, **number of days abstinence** and whether or not the **complete sample** was collected on the card.
- Please also note on your request card as to whether you object to your sample being used for training purposes. Training purposes allows our Andrology and Embryology teams to perform quality assessments of the procedures and equipment used within the laboratory in order to provide a continual highly effective and accurate service.
- **Andrology staff reserve the right not to accept samples with incomplete request cards. It is essential that correct identification of the patient and GP can be made for confidentiality reasons.**

Producing the sample for diagnostic semen analysis

- Intercourse or ANY sexual activity should be avoided for 48 hours and a maximum of 7 days.
- Your name and date of birth must be clearly written on the container.
- Check the integrity of the sample container prior to sample production.
- In order to collect a clean sample, you should pass urine and then wash and rinse your hands, nails and penis before ejaculating into the specified container.
- The sample should be hygienically obtained by masturbation into the sterile container provided. Do not use a condom, lubricant or coitus interruptus (withdrawal method). A **complete** sample from a single ejaculate is required. Please ensure the pot is properly closed to avoid leakage and placed within the sample bag.
- If you have problems or objections producing a sample by masturbation, please contact the laboratory on 01482 689040.
- The sample should be protected from extremes of temperature and kept as close to body temperature as possible.
- The sample should preferably be delivered by the patient within **45 minutes** of production.
- The sample should be delivered between 8:15am and 2.00pm on Monday, Wednesday or Friday (excluding bank holidays). **You must book a sample drop-off appointment online via www.hulleastridingfertility.co.uk/bookings** in order to secure a time slot. If

you do not book an appointment in advance, unfortunately the sample will not be processed.

- A room is available for booking, however this is in exceptional circumstances only i.e. if you are unable to deliver a fertility sample for assessment within 45 minutes. The room can be booked by calling the Unit or via the online booking system selecting 'on-site production facilities', these appointments are on specific days and times only. Please note, there are no televisions or magazines provided in the production room. You will need to enter an email address to access wi-fi or pre-download content if necessary.
- Samples taken to the wrong department, received outside of opening hours, without a pre-booked appointment, over 45 minutes since production, without a fully labelled referral card or container will NOT be processed. Your NHS number must be recorded on the card.

Special infertility testing request card and sample production

- These samples should be produced on-site at Hull and East Riding Fertility via a **pre-booked appointment**. These appointments are scheduled for a Thursday. To book an appointment please book online selecting 'special infertility testing' or call 01482 689040.
- A request card must be obtained from your GP or Consultant. The card should be fully completed and contain the type of test required, name, health surgery and signature of the Doctor requesting the test as well as your name, date of birth and NHS number.
- Please also note on your request card as to whether you object to your sample being used for training purposes. Training purposes allows our Andrology and Embryology teams to perform quality assessments of the procedures and equipment used within the laboratory in order to provide a continual highly effective and accurate service.
- Intercourse or ANY sexual activity should be avoided for 48 hours and a maximum of 7 days.
- If you have problems or objections producing a sample by masturbation, please contact the laboratory on 01482 689040.
- A room is available for booking, however this is in exceptional circumstances only i.e. if you are unable to deliver a fertility sample for assessment within 45 minutes. The room can be booked by calling the Unit or via the online booking system selecting 'on-site production facilities', these appointments are on specific days and times only. Please note, there are no televisions or magazines provided in the production room. You will need to enter an email address to access wi-fi or pre-download content if necessary.
- **Andrology staff reserve the right not to accept samples with incomplete request cards. It is essential that correct identification of the patient and GP can be made for confidentiality reasons.**

Test results/Interpretation

- Results will be provided to your GP/Consultant within 5-7 working days. Results can not be given over the telephone.
- Please see your doctor/Consultant to receive test results and interpretation – the Andrology staff cannot give out results.
- Occasionally a repeat test is requested to confirm the results.

Problems/Repeat tests

- If your GP/Consultant has not received your results there may be a common explanation such as those in the sample acceptance policy above. Please allow 5-7 working days for the sample to be processed and result inputted/sent out. If you still have difficult accessing your results please ask your GP/Consultant to contact the Andrology Unit.
- If the sample has been classified as unsuitable for analysis your GP/Consultant will be informed. You will be required to collect a new referral card (and container if applicable) and bring in a new sample for analysis. Occasionally if the parameters of the sample are lower than expected or further confirmation of the result is needed the GP/Consultant may suggest you bring in another sample for a repeat analysis.

Patient Information – *Post-vasectomy semen analysis*

Vasectomy can be regarded as one of the safest and most effective forms of birth control, however it is important that post operative instructions are followed very carefully. Evidence has shown that immediately following vasectomy, ejaculates will contain potentially fertile sperm. It is therefore essential that contraception should be continued until your Consultant advises otherwise. The professional Guidelines recommend that initial assessment of an ejaculate should take place at a minimum of 12 weeks post vasectomy and after production of at least 20 ejaculates. Contraception should be used until clearance is given by your Consultant Hancock *et al.* (2016).

Collection of the sample

- You should have been given completed request card(s), sterile specimen pot(s) and bag(s) by your consultant. Please ensure all your details are completed on both the card and specimen pot. **You MUST complete all required fields including number of days abstinence, whether the sample was complete, date/time of production and the date of your vasectomy.** Without this information your results will not be valid and you will have to repeat the test.
- Please also note on your request card as to whether you object to your sample being used for training purposes. Training purposes allows our Andrology and Embryology teams to perform quality assessments of the procedures and equipment used within the laboratory in order to provide a continual highly effective and accurate service.
- Check the integrity of the sample container prior to sample production.
- In order to collect a clean sample, you should pass urine and then wash and rinse your hands, nails and penis before ejaculating into the specified container.
- Intercourse or ANY sexual activity should be avoided for 48 hours and a maximum of 7 days.
- The sample should be hygienically obtained by masturbation and ejaculated into the specimen pot. Do not use a condom, lubricant or coitus interruptus (withdrawal method). The **complete** sample from a single ejaculate is required. Ensure the pot is properly closed to avoid leakage and placed within the sample bag.
- If you have problems or objections producing a sample by masturbation, please contact the laboratory on 01482 689040.
- The sample should preferably be delivered by the patient **within 3 hours** of production.
- The sample should be delivered between 8:15am and 2.00pm on Monday, Wednesday or Friday (excluding bank holidays). **You must book a sample drop-off appointment online via www.hulleastridingfertility.co.uk/bookings** in order to secure a time slot. If you do not book an appointment in advance, unfortunately the sample will not be processed.
- **Andrology staff reserve the right not to accept samples with incomplete request cards. It is essential that correct identification of the patient and GP can be made for confidentiality reasons.**

Results/repeat tests

- The results of each analysis will be sent to your GP/Consultant within 5-7 working days of the analysis. These will not be given out to patients by the Andrology Unit.
- Please see/phone your Consultant to find out your test results – the Andrology staff cannot give out results.

- If two semen samples are not completely free of sperm your Consultant should advise you to bring further samples for analysis. You should use contraception until your consultant advises otherwise.
- In some cases there may have been a problem with one of the initial samples and you may require a repeat analysis (details not on your pot/card, sample leaked etc).
- If you consistently produce samples with sperm present your consultant may advise you to bring your next sample to the Unit **within 45 minutes** of production. This allows us to search for the presence of motile sperm for 'Special Clearance'. Please refer to the instructions for patients requiring a semen analysis.
- A room is available for booking; however this is in exceptional circumstances only i.e. if you are unable to deliver a fertility sample for assessment within the time frame required. The room can be booked by calling the Unit or via the online booking system selecting 'on-site production facilities', these appointments are on specific days and times only. Please note, there are no televisions or magazines provided in the production room. You will need to enter an email address to access wi-fi or pre-download content if necessary.
- Clearance can only be granted by your referring Consultant, not the Andrology laboratory.

Useful links with more information

British Infertility Counselling Association
Professional association for infertility counselling in the UK
http://www.bica.net/holding.php

Fertility Network UK
The national charity for anyone who has experienced fertility problems
http://fertilitynetworkuk.org/

Fertility UK
National Fertility Awareness Service for the UK
http://www.fertilityuk.org/

Hull and East Riding Fertility
East Yorkshire's only clinic providing specialist infertility investigations and treatment
https://www.hulleastridingfertility.co.uk/

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority
Free, clear and impartial advice to all affected by fertility treatment
https://www.hfea.gov.uk/

Mensfe
Men's Fertility Website
http://www.mensfe.net/

NHS Choices
Fertility – https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/infertility/diagnosis/
Vasectomy – https://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/contraception-guide/Pages/vasectomy-male-sterilisation.aspx

Patient
Professional reference articles written by UK doctors based on research evidence, EU & UK Guidelines
https://patient.info/doctor/infertility-male

Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare Services
Hull and East Riding
www.conifersexhealth.co.uk