

SEMEN ANALYSIS AND FERTILITY SERVICES

Dear GP colleagues,

Re: SEMEN SAMPLE APPOINTMENTS REQUIRE PATIENT TO CALL WITHIN 3 MONTHS OF REFERRAL.

We will be introducing some changes in the next few weeks to how semen analysis is ordered. The first of these is the length of time available to the patient to telephone the Reproductive Medicine Laboratory after referral, currently sitting at a year. The service has been advised to move to Patient Focussed Booking (which normally requires the patient to phone within 3 weeks), but we have negotiated a 3-month window instead. At the end of the 3 months, the patient will be sent a reminder letter, and will then have 14 days in which to respond. This change will take place this week.

We do understand that there is a chance that some patients might need to be re-referred after this, but the numbers are very small. Sometimes patients don't realise that they need to telephone the unit to be given an appointment and this is the cause of their non-engagement.

Full details are on the [RefHelp page](#), and please ensure that the up to date [referral form](#) is used as this includes full instructions for the patient, including the requirement to call within 3 months.

Please also note that only ONE semen analysis sample pot is needed (except for retrograde ejaculation which requires two pots). Some patients are automatically given two by their GP, but the sample pots are expensive as they have to be pre-weighed, and toxicity tested.

Thank you for your understanding in adapting to the new time frame.

With best wishes,

Maya Chetty

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