

New Guidance and clarification regarding EPA andrology service and post vasectomy testing

All EPA laboratories are now following guidance released from the Association of Biomedical Andrologists, the British Andrology Society and the British Association of Urological Surgeons published in 2016. This will result in some changes in the way results are reported for post vasectomy semen analysis. The key changes are summarised below.

- PVSA should take place a minimum of **12 weeks after surgery** and after a **minimum of 20 ejaculations**.
- All samples will need to be **tested within 1 hour of production** to ensure the number of analyses are kept to a minimum.
- Assessment of **a single sample is acceptable to confirm vasectomy success if no sperm are seen** and all recommendations and laboratory methodology are met – **Clearance can then be given**.
- The level for **Special Clearance is $<0.1 \times 10^6/\text{ml}$ ($<100\,000/\text{ml}$) non-motile sperm** observed and should only be given after the assessment of **two samples** in full accordance with the guidelines.
- **Special Clearance cannot be provided if any motile sperm are observed**.
- **Patients must have adhered to the abstinence period**. Patients are required to have abstained from intercourse and/or ejaculation for 48 hours prior to sample collection, however it is important to have done so at least once during the 5 days prior to the 48-hour abstinence period (**recommended abstinence 2-7 days**). Failure to comply could mean the test results are not valid and the patient may be asked to repeat the test.

In addition to these changes, in order to be compliant with ISO15189 clinical laboratory accreditation standards we request the following criteria are met when making requests for Male fertility, Post Vasectomy, and Vasectomy reversal semen analysis.

- All patients must have a request form given to them at the time when the request is made. The laboratory will not process and report results if no request has been made. Requests should be made using WEB ICE.
- Patients must make an appointment before bringing their sample in; appointments are available at the NNUH and the QEHLK hospital. Appointments can be made online via [Andrology streaming form - Formstack](#)
- We recommend patients produce their sample in our private on-site production room facility, located close to the laboratory to ensure samples are tested within the recommended time frame.

If you have any questions regarding andrology services, please discuss with Kelly Burton or Alistair Macartney on 01603 646524