

SEMEN COLLECTION AND HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

This information is for the partner of patients undergoing IVF or insemination procedures. You will be informed on the morning of the egg retrieval when to provide a semen specimen. The time for obtaining a specimen is dependent upon the quality and maturity of the oocytes retrieved. **If you anticipate difficulties producing semen samples, you must notify the laboratory in advance so that alternative collection methods can be arranged. If you are concerned that you might feel too anxious to produce a sample on the day of the egg retrieval, please let us know as soon as possible so that we might freeze a vial of sperm prior to egg retrieval.** In some instances, you may be required to produce additional semen samples on the same day or even the following day if immature eggs reach maturity overnight and require fresh semen for fertilization to occur. Please make yourself available in case the need arises.

Specimen Collection

1. Abstain from intercourse or masturbation for 2-4 days prior to egg retrieval.
2. The specimen should be collected by manual masturbation, without the use of condoms, intercourse or oral sex (saliva has detrimental effects on spermatozoa). If a lubricant is needed, use mineral oil (from any pharmacy.) If masturbation is not possible, a special semen collection condom from the laboratory can be purchased. Collect the entire ejaculate.
3. The specimen should be collected in a sterile specimen container available from the lab or from your physician or pharmacy (sometimes referred to as a sterile urine cup).
4. To prevent contamination, open the container only when ready to collect the specimen. Avoid touching the inside of the container before and after collection. If the specimen is collected with a special condom, please remove it carefully and place it in the semen container.
5. Label the container with your name, date, and time collected.
6. If the specimen is collected at home, the specimen should not be subjected to extreme heat or cold, or to direct sunlight. During the winter, we recommend that the container be carried in an inside pocket close to your body.
7. If the specimen is collected at home, we must receive it in the laboratory within 90 minutes of collection.