

What if I wish to comment on the service?

We aim to provide a high quality service. If you have any complaints, comments or suggestions, then you can raise them directly with Microbiology staff or write to:

Laboratory Manager
Western Isles Hospital
Macaulay Road
Stornoway
Isle of Lewis HS1 2AF

Alternatively you can contact:

The Complaints Officer
NHS Western Isles
Health Board Offices
37 South Beach
Stornoway
Isle of Lewis HS1 2BB

To help us improve our service we do run occasional patient satisfaction surveys, so you may be asked to complete a questionnaire for us when you attend the Laboratory.

Further information and help

For further information please contact contact:

Microbiology Department
Western Isles Hospital
Macaulay Road
Stornoway
Isle of Lewis, HS1 2AF.

We are listening - how did we do?

We welcome your feedback, as it helps us evaluate the services we provide. If you would like to tell us about your experience:

- speak to a member of staff
- visit our website www.wihb.scot.nhs.uk/feedback or share your story at: www.careopinion.org.uk or tel. 0800 122 31 35
- tel. 01851 708069 Monday-Friday between 9am-5.30pm.

Version: 4 Review Date: September 2023
Produced by: Laboratory Team, Western Isles Hospital

Disclaimer

The content of this leaflet is intended to augment, not replace, information provided by your clinician. It is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice. Reading this information does not create or replace a doctor/patient relationship or consultation. If required, please contact your doctor or other health care provider to assist you to interpret any of this information, or in applying the information to your individual needs.

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NHS Western Isles

Post Vasectomy Semen Analysis



Useful information for patients and carers about
sample collection

Please read and follow instructions thoroughly

Testing your sample

As soon as you have had your operation please contact the Microbiology Department to arrange an appointment for bringing in your first sample for testing.

Your first sample must be both at least 16 weeks and at least 24 ejaculations after your vasectomy operation.

Your second sample or any other subsequent samples will be at least 2 weeks after the first, provided the first sample is clear.

How do I get an appointment?

Telephone Microbiology on **01851 708294** between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

What if I need to change my appointment?

If you are unable to attend the appointment you have been given then contact Microbiology to arrange a convenient date.

If you do not need your appointment please cancel with Microbiology as we can then offer it to other patients.

Where is the Laboratory?

Microbiology is situated in the Western Isles Hospital in Stornoway. From Reception follow the signs for the Laboratory.

Collection of the sample

- Please do not have intercourse or ejaculations for 48 hours prior to collecting the sample.
- You should not abstain from intercourse/ ejaculation for more than 7 days.
- First wash your hands and genitals with soap and water, ensure complete removal of all soap residues and dry thoroughly.
- Collect the sample, at home, by masturbation directly into the container. (Do not use a sheath/condom for collection as they will kill sperm. Other forms of sample collection are also not acceptable).
- Do collect the entire sample; advise the Microbiologist if any of the sample is not collected.

The Container / Request form

- Use the sterile container provided – other containers are not acceptable.
- Please do not open the container until you are ready to produce the sample.
- Collect the entire sample directly into the container.
- Seal the container immediately with the lid. Ensure the lid is tight.
- Please write your name, date of birth plus date and time of production on the container label.
- Record your period of abstinence on the form provided and ensure the name of the requesting Consultant/GP is also stated on the form.

Failure to comply with these instructions WILL result in the sample being rejected.

Delivery of the sample

- Deliver the sample and completed form to the Laboratory **within two hours** of collection.
- Please keep the sample warm by carrying it under clothing near your body, especially if the weather is cold.
- On arrival ask for Microbiology.

Do **NOT** leave your sample anywhere apart from with a member of the Microbiology laboratory staff.

Samples must not be sent by post or GP surgery carrier.

Can my partner bring in my sample?

Provided they can let the laboratory know the entire sample has been collected, or if not, which part was lost (first, middle or last). They must also be able to confirm all the required details.

How do I get my results?

The doctor who performed the operation will write to you with your result and ask you to ring to arrange a follow up appointment. If the sample is clear you will need to make an appointment 2-4 weeks later to bring in your second sample. If the second sample is clear the laboratory will send the result through to the doctor who performed the operation. They will write to you confirming the success of the vasectomy.

In cases when the first sample is not clear, the doctor will advise you on the follow up testing that will be required. Most, but not all, cases of failure to clear are not operation failures.