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Dear User

There has been a change to our policy for post vasectomy semen analysis (PVSA) which was necessary in order to conform to the new 2016 guidelines published in a collaborative report by the Association of Biomedical Andrologists, British Andrology Society & British Association of Urological Surgeons. These new guidelines state that:

***Post vasectomy semen analysis should take place a minimum of 12 weeks after surgery and after a minimum of 20 ejaculations.***

***If no sperm are seen and these minimum criteria have been adhered to then clearance can be given.***

***If sperm have been seen, in order for accurate assessment of motility, the sample should be analysed within 60 minutes of production to see if sperm are motile or not.***

***Special clearance can be given if sperm count of <100,000 has been seen AND sperm are non-motile AND two assessments meeting this criteria have been performed.***

As of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 the Andrology department here at Hammersmith Hospital will not be accepting any off site post vasectomy semen analyses. All post vasectomy samples will need to be produced on site in one of our 3 production rooms. This change is necessary in order to avoid mistakes and non-conformities to the guidelines and also to allow for safe, accurate results for the patients.

Patients must bring with them their referral form from their doctor / consultant in charge of their care. They will then be asked to complete an in house sample request form with the help of our receptionist. Only when all documentation is complete will patients be allocated one of our 3 production rooms in which they can produce their sample. As mentioned in the guidelines above, patients will be asked how many ejaculations they have had since their surgery and also how many weeks ago their surgery took place. If this information is <20 ejaculates and / or <12weeks post-surgery, they will be asked to visit the department at a later date when they have met the minimum criteria.

Disappointment / frustration on the patient's behalf can be avoided with your cooperation by you informing the patient of these guidelines and minimum requirements for PVSA.

If you have any other queries please do not hesitate to contact me or our Consultant head of department.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Kind Regards

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