Microbiology Department

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8th November 2022

Dear Colleagues,

**RE: Changes to Post Vasectomy Semen analysis (PVSA)**

The Microbiology Department at Stepping Hill hospital are changing their methodology for Post Vasectomy Seminal Analysis (PVSA). Findings from our recent UKAS ISO: 15189 accreditation inspection and guidance from the 2016 PVSA guidelines have prompted us to change to an appointment system starting 6th February 2023.

The PVSA investigation will now include assessment of motility of any sperm present. In order to assess any sperm motility, the sample must be observed within 1 hour of production, this will change to 50 mins early next year. There are benefits to this system because patients with low level sperm present in their post vasectomy semen samples will no longer need to be recalled for special clearance samples should the sperm count be below 100,000 sperm/ml with no motile sperm observed.

The appointments will be made available through the Microbiology secretaries. See below for contact details.

The specimen collection packs will be posted out with new guidance leaflets to reflect the changes going forward. Please note, we will still only accept specimen collection containers that have been toxicity tested by the laboratory and these will be provided in the collection packs.

As testing is performed at least 12 weeks post procedure, patients whose procedures are performed from the 14th November will require an appointment.

 Patients who have had their procedure performed after 11th November will have to book an appointment but for operations performed before then, patients will still be able to have their semen analysed without appointments using the specimen containers currently provided.

Appointments will be available Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays).

We appreciate that this may cause some inconvenience to patients due to the shorter time to testing however the new arrangements will ensure that we are following the current guidelines for these specimens.

We have enclosed a patient information leaflet with all of the details stated.

If you have any concerns or queries, please contact Sadie Macmaster Technical Head of Microbiology on 0161 419 5601 sadie.macmaster@stockport.nhs.uk

Yours faithfully,

Sadie Macmaster and Dr Madhu Rao

Technical Head Microbiology Clinical Lead Andrology