



## Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

### SEMEN COLLECTION PROTOCOL

Instructions for a patient who is to collect a semen specimen for the study of male fertility.

1. The patient must pick up the specimen cup and protocol from the **Outpatient Laboratory, Ground Floor** at the **North Entrance** of the hospital or the doctor's office before collecting the specimen.
2. The patient should have **no sexual relations or ejaculations for at least 2-7 days** before collecting the specimen.
3. The optimal method for specimen collection is by masturbation directly into the container provided. Do not use a condom unless you are certain that it contains no spermicides or sperm inhibiting chemicals. You may be assured that such a single masturbation is not harmful in any way. It is very important that **all** of the semen from the first ejaculation be collected; loss of a portion will give a misleading analysis.
4. Immediately after collection, screw the lid firmly on the container. Write your name, social security number and the date and time the specimen was collected on the container.
5. Immediately bring the specimen to the **Outpatient Laboratory** for billing and paperwork processing; **testing must begin within one hour after collection**. Failure to examine the specimen within one hour of collection may result in a misleading analysis.
6. During transportation, do not agitate the container in any way. Avoid direct sunlight, extreme heat or cold. The sample can be kept warm by keeping the container close to the body.

### IMPORTANT

Specimens will be accepted **daily from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm**. Please call 791-2403 if there are any questions.