**COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS**

**Background Information**

As the contraceptive effects of a vasectomy are delayed for a variable period of time, an alternative method of birth control should be used until laboratory testing on follow up semen (sperm fluid) samples confirms that no sperm are present.

Due to the presence of residual stored sperm, a specimen of sperm fluid should be collected at 3 months and after at least 20 ejaculations following the vasectomy. The specimen should be collected in a specimen container (see instructions below) and taken to a Pathology Collection department at:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Collection Centre**  | **Address**  | **Times** |
| Box Hill Hospital9895 4905 | Nelson Road, Box Hill | Monday-Friday: 8 am to 5pm  |

**To collect semen (sperm fluid) sample:**

1. Abstain from ejaculation for 3 days prior to collection.
2. By masturbation, ejaculate directly into the container provided; do not use lubricant or condom.
3. Record date and time of collection on container and whether the collection was complete (by writing complete or incomplete).
4. Replace the lid firmly and label the container with your surname and given name(s), date of birth and either UR number (if available) or Medicare number and the date and time of ejaculation.
5. Store the sample between 20 – 35 degrees Celsius until delivered to the laboratory.
6. Take the sample to Box Hill Hospital Collection Centre within 1 hour of collection.
7. The laboratory results will be available to your doctor 1-2 days after receipt of the specimen in the laboratory. Please contact your doctor for the results.

**Protecting Your Privacy**

Eastern Health is committed to protecting your privacy. We will keep your personal information secure and will disclose information about you only when required by law. We comply with relevant information and privacy legislation. If you would like more information, please ask a staff member or visit our Web site [www.easternhealth.org.au](http://www.easternhealth.org.au/)

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5 Arnold Street, Box Hill, Victoria 3128

1300 342 255

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