



## SPAR · SPECIAL PROGRAM OF ASSISTED REPRODUCTION

A Program of the Bedford Research Foundation Clinical Laboratory

Massachusetts 501 (c)(3), not for profit organization

P: 617.623.7447 E: lab@bedfordresearch.org W: www.sementesting.org

## Specimen Collection, Cryopreservation, Program Costs, and Insurance Eligibility

Semen specimen collection, testing, cryopreservation and SPAR costs.

### Semen Specimen Collection

Semen specimens may be delivered to the laboratory for testing using two methods:

- ➔ Specimens may be **Walked-In** to the Davis Square lab within 90 minutes of specimen collection.
- ➔ Specimens may be **Mailed-In** via Priority Overnight FedEx from almost anywhere in the world.



Both methods use the Foundation's **Live Semen Transport Kit**, designed specifically for SPAR. The Mail-In kit is the first overnight delivery kit that does not require freezer packs because of its specialized refrigeration medium added to the specimen before shipping.

#### Which Kit Should I Use?

The Mail-In Live Semen Transport Kit is recommended for most patients. Walk-In Live Semen Transport Kits may be recommended for patients with special infertility needs or specific time constraints.

#### How Do I Order A Kit?

An order form for your first kit will be included in your Intro Pack. We recommend mailing this kit in coordination with your initial consultation with Dr. Kiessling. The sperm count in your semen specimen may influence your treatment options. A \$100 initial deposit is required with your first kit; this deposit will be credited toward specimen testing fees.

#### Specimen Shipping & Receiving

Mail-In kits can be shipped Wednesday evening for arrival Thursday morning, or Thursday evening for Friday arrival or Friday evening for Saturday arrival. Walk-In Kits may be dropped off Fridays from 9AM to 1PM and Saturdays from 9 AM to 1 PM.

#### The live specimen is analyzed for:

**Sperm Count** to assess fertility.

**Sperm appearance (morphology)** for advanced assessment of fertility and development of sperm.

**Immunostain** for estimation of other types of cells in your semen.

**Viral Testing** for detection of HIV RNA / DNA particles in specimen.

**Private Sperm Cryo-Banking** Cryopreservation of sperm for personal use only. We use standard sperm cryobank procedures to store specimens until needed.

#### Ordering Additional Kits

Order additional kits by emailing: lab@bedfordresearch.org, or downloading the order form from our website: www.sementesting.org and faxing it to: (617) 623-9447 or mailing it with payment to: PO Box 1028, Bedford, MA 01730.

To help protect the confidentiality of our patients, online ordering and credit card payments are *not* yet available. All payments must be made by check or money order.

#### Important Notes about Viral Testing:

- ➔ Each specimen *must* be accompanied by a signed consent for HIV testing. A form is included in the kit or can be downloaded from the website.
- ➔ Semen specimens are HIV tested in batches. Some specimens may require repeat testing. This means it may take two to three weeks to receive your specimen results. Viral test results are not given over the phone, they will be mailed to you.

# Cryopreservation, Storage & Specimen Shipment

Cryopreservation and analysis for testing are included in the cost of the *Live Semen Transport Kit*. Patients can consent to have the Foundation store their specimens indefinitely or ship them to an infertility clinic or other storage facility.

Call 1-617-623-7447

Fax 1-617-623-9447

Email [lab@bedfordresearch.org](mailto:lab@bedfordresearch.org)

Web <http://www.sementesting.org>

Laboratory 260 Elm Street, Suite 106  
Somerville, MA 02144

## Storage

Storage of each specimen is \$35 per month, there is no charge for the first month.

Patients are required to sign a sperm storage renewal form every two years. You will receive this form in the mail. We will make only 3 attempts to contact you once more before disposing of your specimen(s).

## Shipment

The Foundation can ship cryopreserved specimens to any location in the world. You must sign a consent form and pay for specimen shipping in advance. At least 30 days notice is required to complete paperwork and schedule the shipment. In order to protect your specimen, we ship between the hours of 9AM and 12PM, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

The signed consent form, and all outstanding charges on the patient's account must be reconciled in advance of shipping. The cost of the first shipment is included in specimen processing. Additional shipments will cost \$475.00. Specimens are shipped in a dryshipper containing liquid nitrogen vapor.

### IMPORTANT

Specimen Shipment is a regulated and delicate process. We require 30 days notice and original signed consent and payment prior to shipping.

As soon as you have cryopreserved sperm from two

specimens with undetectable viral burden, the Program Coordinator will automatically send you a consent form and invoice for shipment - if you have notified the lab of its destination.



**Liquid Nitrogen Dry Shipper**

Keeps the sperm at liquid nitrogen temperatures for shipping.

## Program Costs

These costs are estimates based on average patient expenditure per cycle. Please note that costs may vary depending on specific patient circumstances.

To keep our administrative costs low, payment in full for the specimen testing (\$1,095.00) is necessary when the specimen is submitted. A nonrefundable, deposit of \$100 is required for your first kit to be shipped and will be applied to your balance.

## Insurance

Insurance coverage varies by patient, policy, and location. Patients have reported being told their insurance companies do not consider an infectious disease as a diagnosis of infertility, and therefore

## Specimen Collection

<b>Initial Consultation with Dr. Kiesslering</b>	There is a \$300 program initiation fee which is included in the initial consult fee.	<b>\$475.00</b>
<b>Semen Analysis and Sperm Cryopreservation</b>	Analysis of specimen for assessment of infertility and other issues. Freezing to keep alive.	<b>\$445.00</b> (per specimen)
<b>Viral Testing</b>	If the sperm count and motility are within normal limits, the specimen will be tested for viral burden.	<b>\$650.00</b> (per specimen)
<b>Sub Total</b> (per specimen)		<b>\$1,095.00</b>
<b>Total (for 2 specimens)</b>	Two undetectable specimens must be collected before attempting an infertility procedure.	<b>\$2,665.00</b>

## Additional Costs

<b>Specimen Shipping</b>	The first shipment is included in the kit processing. Specimens can be shipped to any cooperating clinic. A consent form and 30 days notice is required.	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Specimen Storage</b>	This is a monthly fee per specimen. There is no charge for the first month of specimen storage.	<b>\$35.00</b>

their infertility treatment will not be covered by insurance. Other patients have had some lab costs, such as semen analyses and blood hormone tests covered. The PCR test is not

eligible for insurance coverage. Bedford Research Foundation does no insurance billing, but will provide you with the laboratory paperwork needed to submit a claim.