

SPERM CRYOPRESERVATION FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL



Wales Fertility Institute is pleased to be able to offer our Service Personnel the opportunity to store their sperm before they deploy.

How is my sample stored?

The sperm are frozen and stored in Liquid Nitrogen, a process known as cryopreservation. This process preserves the sperm, which are then available for fertility treatment if the need arises.

- You will be asked to produce a sample by masturbating into a sample container. The Unit has private rooms available for this purpose
- A basic semen analysis is then carried out on the sample to ensure it is suitable for freezing
- A cryo-protectant is added to the sample to prevent the formation of ice crystals in the freezing and thawing process which can damage the sperm
- The sample is split into straws which are then heat sealed to protect the sample in storage
- The samples are then frozen and stored at -196°C in Liquid Nitrogen

Things you need to consider

As part of the process of banking, you will find out more about your potential fertility. One in ten men have a fertility problem and one in fifty men ejaculate no sperm at all. . Wales Fertility Institute has a counselling service available to all patients. The Andrology service can refer you to our counsellors if you wish to discuss the implications of any findings regarding your fertility.

When you attend the Wales Fertility Institute you will have to fill out a consent form, on this you can decide to let a named partner/wife have treatment with your sperm even in the event of your death. Alternatively you can decide that if anything happens to you the sperm should be disposed of, this is also the situation if you do not name a partner.

Further information

[For more information regarding the cost of sperm cryopreservation for service personnel please contact the WFI Administration Team on \[Admin.WFI@wales.nhs.uk\]\(mailto:Admin.WFI@wales.nhs.uk\)](#)

[Further information about the process of Sperm Cryopreservation can be found under Sperm Freezing on the Wales Fertility Institute website.](#)

How to find us

The Andrology laboratory, Wales Fertility Institute Cardiff is on the C1 Link Corridor. Directions to the hospital and maps of the hospital can be found on the UHW webpages:

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