

Following the publication of new WHO (2021) guidelines for the examination and processing of human semen, the reference limits for semen samples will be amended and retitled 'decision limits'.

This will commence for all samples produced for analysis on or after <u>Monday 6th March</u> <u>2023</u>. The digital reports will be amended to reflect this change and the results flagged as abnormal if one or more parameters lies outside of these decision limits.

Test parameter	WHO 5 th edition (old reference limits)	WHO 6 th edition (new decision limits)
Volume	≥ 1.5ml	≥ 1.4 ml
Concentration	≥15 million sperm per ml	≥ 16 million sperm per ml
Total motility	≥ 40%	≥ 42%
Progressive motility	≥ 32%	≥ 30%
Morphology	≥ 4%	≥ 4%
Vitality	≥ 58%	≥ 54%

The measurements of uncertainty of the test results have also been updated to reflect this change and are available within our User Guide, accessible through our website and via the Pathway Information Portal.

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Important Changes

Samples must now be delivered to the Unit within 45 minutes (fertility analysis) or <mark>3 hours</mark> (post-vasectomy analysis) and be kept as close to body temperature as possible (20°C to 37°C).