

Southwest Pathology Services

SPS Hub Laboratory

Building 3

Lisieux Way

Taunton

TA1 2LB

**Tel:** 01823 346700

**Email**: spsadmin@somersetft.nhs.uk

**Web:** www.synlab.co.uk



Information regarding SPS Andrology laboratory transition to the new WHO 2021 guidelines.

From the 1st of June 2023 Southwest Pathology will provide a service as set out in the WHO laboratory manual for the examination and processing of human semen 6th edition (2021).

Many of the changes are to laboratory processes and methodology, what is reported will not change. Laboratory comments at the end of the patient report will explain any changes.

You will notice that sperm morphology will now be assessed on all fertility samples with sufficient sperm to do so (not just the hospital requests). This is a service improvement requested by the Gynaecology and Reproductive medicine consultants at both Yeovil and Taunton hospitals.

To adhere to the WHO guidelines Sperm motility and Sperm vitality assessments will require to be completed within an hour from the time of sample production, given the large catchment area of our patients and no on site production facilities this is unachievable. Motility and vitality values will be reported regardless of the timeframe but please note this assessment will not be accredited as it does not follow the WHO guidelines, there will be a laboratory comment added to these reports to ensure users are aware. The laboratory comment will state “Note that the Motility/Vitality assessment on this semen sample has not been completed within 1 hour of sample collection, please interpret results with caution.”

The decision limits have changed, please see the attachment at the end of this letter for the revised limits. There is also a link to these in the Andrology section of the pathology intranet.

If you have any questions regarding these changes or the service in general please contact [SPSAndrology@SomersetFT.nhs.uk](mailto:SPSAndrology@SomersetFT.nhs.uk)