

Post Vasectomy Semen Analysis Testing Options

Compiled and annotated by Donald Snyder, MD Indianapolis, IN. October 2022:

1) PVSA brought into or mailed to the provider's office:

Cost:

- Minimal ongoing costs. Cost of Microscope to start with

Advantages:

- Provider has control over the testing process and relatively low cost once a microscope is purchased
- Can be done **Quantitatively** to follow trends if positive

Disadvantages:

- Provider must be competent to do microscopy themselves
- CLIA Waiver for the facility is required
- PVSA examinations might disrupt provider work flow
- Provider must supply patient with instructions/materials/protocols for collecting and transporting specimens
- Provider must generate their own report or otherwise document the results and notify patient
- Provider must provide a way to repeat the specimen if positive
- Provider's staff often must handle specimens handed directly from patient
- Low patient compliance rate
- CLIA Waiver for the facility is required

2) PVSA done at a local laboratory:

Cost:

- Patient (or their insurance company) might bear the cost (unbundled service) or cost can be contracted with the lab, so varies greatly. Likely over \$100

Advantages:

- Report is generated by lab for patient's record
- Often results are **Qualitative** only (positive or negative)

Disadvantages:

- Low patient compliance
- High rejection rates for sample inadequacy, etc.
- Patient must accommodate lab's schedule
- Provider or staff must communicate results to the patient once report is received

3) VerifyVas: <https://verifyvas.com/>

Cost:

- \$40 for each completed PVSA

Advantages:

- High patient compliance (almost 90% PVSA completion)

- Specimens collected in patient's home, then mailed to VerifyVas for analysis
- Report is generated and link is sent directly to both patient's and provider's emails
- Provider selects when PVSA is done 8 to 16 weeks after vasectomy
- Specimen substantially complies with AUA Guidelines so is nearly 100% accurate
- **Quantitative.** Actual sperm concentration is reported so trend can be followed if PVSA is positive
- No test kits or specimens for office staff to handle
- Provider is charged only if patient complies and submits his sample
- Repeat testing is automated when needed

Disadvantages:

- Only available in the United States
- Office staff needs to enter each patient's name, address and email into VerifyVas database at time of vasectomy

4) SpermCheck Vasectomy <https://spermcheck.com/vasectomy/>

Cost:

- \$65 for two tests (cannot order one)

Advantages:

- Done at home so likely increased compliance
- Easy to order from a variety of retailers

Disadvantages:

- **Qualitative** (positive or negative) results only
- Does not comply with AUA Guidelines
- 96% accuracy
- No Report generated for provider

5) Fellow <https://www.meetfellow.com/>

Cost:

- \$139 for one test

Advantages:

- Sample produced at home and mailed, improving compliance
- They also offer a fertility test, good for post reversal for \$189
- Report is generated

Disadvantages:

- Uses a preservative so samples are diluted
- **Qualitative** (positive or negative) results only

6) Ultra Lab Test <https://www.ultalabtests.com/test/post-vasectomy-spermatozoa-qualitative>

Cost:

- \$58 per test

Advantages:

- Patient can order for themselves

Disadvantages:

- Patient prepays, then finds a lab to go to that does the testing
- No report sent to Provider
- **Qualitative** (positive or negative) results only

7) Request a test <https://requestatest.com/>

Cost:

- \$59 per test

Advantages:

- Patient can order for themselves

Disadvantages:

- Patient prepays, then finds a lab to go to that does the testing
- No report sent to Provider
- **Qualitative** (positive or negative) results only

8) Male From Home <https://malefromhome.com/>

Cost:

- \$50 for one test; \$90 for two tests

Advantages:

- Patient collects at home and sends to lab by mail, improving compliance
- Either one or two tests can be ordered

Disadvantages:

- **Qualitative** (positive or negative) results only
- Provider buys kits or vouchers in advance and pays for the test whether patient returns specimen for testing or not
- Provider must keep inventory of test kits to hand out, patient must register themselves on website
- Uses Formaldehyde which is poisonous and dilutes the sample

9) PVSA.org <https://www.pvsa.org/>

Cost :

- \$45 for one test kit ; \$\$85 for two

Advantages:

- Patient collects at home and sends to lab by mail, improving compliance
- Either one or two tests can be ordered

Disadvantages:

- **Qualitative** (positive or negative) results only
- Uses Formaldehyde which is poisonous, and dilutes the specimen
- Provider buys kits in advance and pays for the test whether patient returns specimen for testing or not
- Provider must keep inventory of test kits to hand out