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/](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/](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) **Ulta Lab Test** [https://www.ultalabtests.com/test/post-vasectomy-spermatozoa-qualitative](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/](https://requestatest.com/)
   Cost:
   - $59 per test
   Advantages:
   - Patient can order for themselves
   Disadvantages:
   - Patient prepaies, 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/](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/](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