

# FERTILITY

## Testing Instructions

### 1 Choose Your Collection Day

- ▶ Read all instructions thoroughly and decide the ideal days for you to test. Mark them on your calendar.
- ▶ Samples may be collected during the same cycle as fertility medications (e.g. clomid, letrozole). Make sure to note them on the Test Requisition in Section 4.
- ▶ Failure to follow instructions may compromise the clinical usefulness of your lab results. Please contact your health care provider or ZRT if you need assistance.



View the collection video at [www.zrtlab.com](http://www.zrtlab.com)

#### Non-Menstruating Women

- ▶ You will collect 1 blood spot card and 4 saliva samples any day of the month.

#### Menstruating Women

- ▶ You will collect 2 blood spot cards (one follicular, one luteal) and 4 saliva samples. Saliva samples can be collected on any day.
- ▶ **Follicular:** Collect a blood spot card on day 3 or 4 of your menstrual cycle. (Day 1 = 1st day of bleeding)
- ▶ **Luteal:** Collect a blood spot card using guidelines below.
  - Regular Cycles: If known, collect 7 days after LH surge/ovulation. If unknown, collect day 19, 20 or 21 of the cycle.
  - Long Cycles (Over 28 Days): If known, collect 7 days after positive LH surge/ovulation. If unknown, collect day 21.
  - Short Cycles (Less than 23 Days): If known, collect 5 days after positive LH surge/ovulation. If unknown, collect day 15.
  - Unpredictable: Collect any day not bleeding.
- ▶ Blood spot cards may be collected in either order, luteal first or follicular first.

### 2 Hormone Users *skip this step if not using hormones*

- ▶ **Topical, Oral, Troche or Sublingual Therapies:** The day before testing, continue use of hormones as prescribed. Make sure any night dosage is applied at least 12 hours before planned morning collection. For example, dose before 8pm for an 8am collection. If using oral progesterone, your dosage can be right before bed. Avoid using hormones on the face, lips and neck.  
Do NOT use bare hands for topical hormone application for at least two days prior to collection. Change sheets, pillow cases and hand towels the night before collecting. Avoid touching bathroom surfaces which may be contaminated with traces of hormones.
- ▶ **Patches, Vaginal Rings, Pellets or Injectables:** Test half-way between doses. For example, collect 3 days after a once-a-week patch, or 2 weeks after a once-a-month injection. If you are doing daily morning injections, do injections after collecting your sample; nightly injections take as usual and note on requisition form.
- ▶ **7-Keto DHEA:** Avoid for 3 days prior to collecting. Continue taking regular DHEA as prescribed.
- ▶ **Steroids (e.g. glucocorticoids, hydrocortisone, prednisone):** Talk to your health care provider about appropriate timing.

### 3 Prepare for Collection

- ▶ Avoid anti-aging/anti-wrinkle facial creams for 3 days prior to testing as they may contain undisclosed hormones.
- ▶ Saliva: Do not eat, drink (except water) or brush your teeth prior to your first collection of the day and for the 2 hours prior to collecting throughout the day.
- ▶ Unless otherwise directed by your healthcare provider, use the Collection Timetable as a guide to time your collections.

Collection Timetable	UPON WAKING	BEFORE LUNCH	BEFORE DINNER	BEFORE BED
Saliva Tubes   Any Day	Large Tube ●	Small Tube ●	Small Tube ●	Small Tube ●
Blood Spot Card   Follicular phase of menstrual cycle	●			
Blood Spot Card   Luteal phase of menstrual cycle	●			

## 4 Collect Samples

### Blood Spot Collection

#### Important

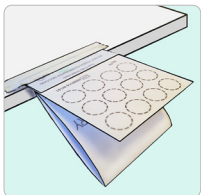
Samples that do not meet criteria below may not be usable for testing. Each blood spot must:

- ▶ Soak through the collection card so that blood shows through on the back.
- ▶ Be at least the size of a pencil eraser (appx 1/4" or 6.5 mm).
- ▶ Contain one drop per circle, no overlapping.



#### STEP 1

Collect blood sample within 1 hour of waking. Wash hands with soap and water. Use a clean towel to dry hands. Make sure hands are warm and circulation is going. Write your name, the date and time of collection on the card prior to collecting. **Tip:** To encourage blood flow before nicking finger, rub hands together/swing arm and/or run hand under warm water.



#### STEP 2

Open the cover on the collection card. Fold it back and away from the filter paper. Avoid touching the filter paper. Tape card to a flat surface like a table, below waist level. Open the alcohol prep pad and sterile gauze. Select finger. Middle or ring finger is recommended. Wipe finger with alcohol prep pad & allow to air dry for 15-30 seconds.



#### STEP 3

Twist cap off lancet and press small white section firmly against the side of finger pad until lancet clicks. Wipe away the first blood drop with gauze.

#### STEP 4

Position finger over circle of blood spot card and gently milk (don't squeeze) blood from the finger. Collect so that your hand is below your waist, allowing gravity to assist with blood flow. **Tip:** Squeeze arm from elbow to base of finger.



#### STEP 5

As blood drop forms and is ready to fall, touch the drop onto the center of the circle (one drop per circle). Continue collection until all circles have been filled. When finished, apply bandage.

#### STEP 6

Leave blood spot card open to dry - minimum 30 minutes. Once sample is dry, close cover. Store card in a cool, dry location away from direct sunlight until it is shipped.

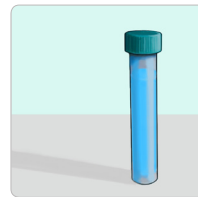
### Saliva Collection

#### Important

- ▶ Each saliva sample must fill the tube at least half way, not including bubbles.
- ▶ Mistake collecting saliva? Rinse your tubes out with hot water (no soap), shake out remaining water, and air dry. Restart your collection at the appropriate time.
- ▶ Freeze any samples not being shipped within 24 hours. Samples will be stable during shipping.

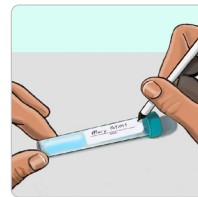
#### STEP 1

Begin collecting your first saliva sample into the large tube within 30 minutes of waking for the day. Wash hands with soap and water. Use a clean towel to dry hands. Rinse your mouth with water. Wait 5 minutes before beginning collection.



#### STEP 2

Allow saliva to pool in mouth, then transfer to tube. Fill tube at least half full, not including bubbles. Collection usually takes 15-30 minutes depending on saliva flow. When done, cap the tube. **Tip:** Smelling food, yawning, or pressing the tip of your tongue against your teeth can all help with saliva flow.



#### STEP 3

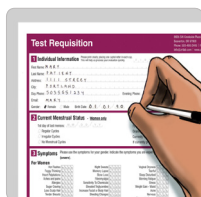
Write your name, the date and time of collection on the tube.

*Place the tube back into the bag.*

#### STEP 4

Repeat this process for the remaining collection times using the smaller tubes provided. Do not eat, drink (except water), or brush teeth at least 2 hours prior to collections.

## 5 Finish & Send



#### STEP 1

Complete all paperwork. Make sure all sections are filled in and your form is signed.



#### STEP 2

Place the samples, the Test Requisition form and any additional paperwork back into the box. Make sure to include payment (if applicable).



#### STEP 3

Place the entire test kit box inside the return packaging. Affix the prepaid label or postage if applicable. Return using the appropriate carrier. Samples will remain stable under average shipping conditions, including over weekends and holidays.