

What Testing Is Available On Weekends And Public Holidays?

Most sites offer blood tests on Saturdays, but on Sundays and public holidays this may not be available. As advised previously, these days can be changed to suit the patient.

Tracking Patients On Clomiphene (Clomid)

Before referring women on *Clomiphene* for tracking, please contact us on 13 PATH (13 7284) and ask for the Duty Biochemist. We need to ensure that we have your contact details, **including after hours contact details**, prior to our supervision of tracking results. We request that these arrangements are in place to ensure you can provide appropriate support immediately to your patient (if required) during *Clomiphene* induction and tracking.

Assisted Reproductive Therapies

Women who are having ART should **not** be referred to PathWest for ovulation tracking or for other pathology testing **without alerting us that ART is in place**.

This is because billing on ART patients **MUST** be forwarded to the provider of the ART service and is not able to be forwarded to Medicare.

Please phone us on 13 PATH (13 7284) and ask for the Duty Biochemist to discuss any patients who are having ART and concurrent OVT with PathWest.

Fertility Clinic Patients

Fertility clinics may request their patients have OVT samples analysed in nominated regional laboratories to facilitate faster results. **Pathology tests can be processed by the laboratory and results will be forwarded directly to the fertility clinic for review and management (including tests requested on weekends and public holidays)**. PathWest pathologists do not manage these results and patients should not expect a phone call from PathWest pathologists if they are a fertility clinic patient.

Fertility clinics should contact us on 13 PATH (13 7284) and ask for the Duty Biochemist to arrange provision of on site regional OVT testing. Contact details, fax and phone numbers for results and billing purposes are required.

Billing

There are no further charges for pathologist supervised tracking service. Depending on your billing, nominated patients may be either privately billed or bills forwarded to Medicare or a fertility service. If tests are performed for fertility services or on patients having ART, the laboratory must be informed so that we forward the billing to these services. These services may then bill patients for the pathology provided.

For all billing enquiries contact PathWest Accounts on 9346 1200.

For further information please contact the PathWest pathologist on 13 PATH (13 7284) and visit our website www.pathwest.com.au.

Copies of this brochure and the "Regional Ovulation Tracking Information for Patients" can be found on the PathWest website.

Regional Ovulation Tracking (OVT)

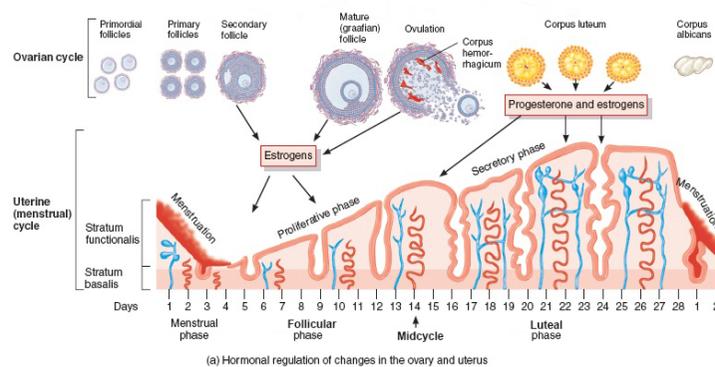


Doctors Information

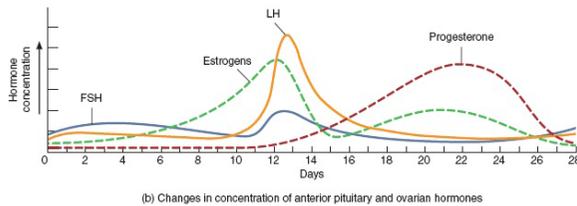
What Is OVT And How Does It Work?

Ovulation tracking is the biochemical testing of the female reproductive hormones throughout the first half of the menstrual cycle to identify when ovulation occurs.

When a woman is ovulating she is advised to have timed intercourse to increase the chance of pregnancy. The diagram below shows this cycle.



(a) Hormonal regulation of changes in the ovary and uterus



(b) Changes in concentration of anterior pituitary and ovarian hormones

Menstrual Cycle

How Can PathWest Pathologists Help?

You can request PathWest pathologists assist you and your patients by managing their ovulation tracking. We will phone the results to the patient daily, a copy of her results will be forwarded to you.

The results from daily tests will be reviewed by a pathologist who advise your patient on the timing of future tests and when results indicate midcycle (ovulation) to try for pregnancy.

If the pathologist is concerned about any aspect of the patient's tracking cycle during the testing, they will contact you to discuss.

Factors To Consider

Tracking works best in women with regular cycles. 3 to 6 months of testing is not uncommon depending on the women's age and medical history. If pregnancy is not achieved in this time, other options may need to be considered.

Women with long or irregular periods, the testing can be less successful. Please call the pathologist to discuss before OVT commences.

What You Need To Do

At a patient consultation discuss the concept of ovulation tracking to determine midcycle which is the most appropriate time to try for pregnancy. Use the "*Regional Ovulation Tracking Information for Patients*" brochure to assist you.

Advise the patient to have her **blood taken before 9am**, to ensure daily results. The patient needs to **provide a reliable contact phone number**, preferably a mobile phone she can be contacted on during the day.

Provide the patient with 6 to 8 completed **request forms** with the following tests "**OVT – E2, LH, Prog**". Please write "**pathologist to phone**" in the clinical notes.

Please ensure **your contact details**, preferably your mobile, are included to allow the pathologist to contact you to discuss your patient, if required. This is especially important in patients on *Clomiphene*.

PathWest will provide copies of patient results to you from each test.

New request forms will need to be provided for each ongoing cycle.

What Day Should The Patient Start Blood Tests?

For most women with a regular cycle ,e.g. 28 to 30 days from one period to the next period, we suggest the first blood be taken on day 8 to 10 of cycle, counting the first day of menstruation as day 1.

Advise Your Patient To

Present to the collection centre **before 9am** to have blood taken. Ensure that her **phone number** is provided to us and that she **keeps her phone with her**. We will contact her after 11am on the days of her blood test.

Where Is This Service Provided?

This service is provided at selected regional sites only and **not** in the metropolitan area. Please check with your local laboratory or visit the PathWest website **www.pathwest.com.au** for location contact details.