

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ANAL SWABBING FOR A PATIENT

Anal swabs are collected for testing for *Enterobius vermicularis*, the symptoms of which include **irritation and itching in the anal region**. An adult human pinworm or *Enterobius vermicularis* lives in the large intestine and in the rectum. Infection with the eggs of the worm occurs by the faecal-oral route through contaminated hands. Children aged 5–14 are infected most often. Human pinworm eggs are rarely found in stool, as they are laid on the perianal folds.

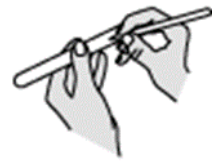
Your physician will decide whether the test is necessary. You will receive a referral and a sample container from the physician who prescribed the test, a nurse, or a laboratory employee.

Preparations for anal swabbing:

- collect the sample immediately after getting up in the morning, before washing and bowel movement.

For anal swabbing:

- there is a cotton swab with glycerine in the sample container;
- use the cotton swab to collect a sample from around your anus (from the perianal folds) in circular movements;
- place the swab back in the sample container;
- write your **name and personal identification code** on the side of the container;
- write the **date and time** of collecting the sample on the referral.



Delivering the sample to the lab: bring the sample to the reception of the lab.

Further information about the location and opening times of the laboratory can be found on the website of the North Estonia Medical Centre at www.regionaalhaigla.ee or by calling **617 1300**.

North Estonia Medical Centre

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The patient instructions have been approved by the laboratory of the North Estonia Medical Centre (2021)