

Instructions for Pinworm Specimen Collection

Purpose

Specimens are collected to detect cases of pinworm infestation. The adult female pinworm migrates from the anus during the night and deposits eggs on the perianal area.

Preparation

The best time for recovery of pinworms is to collect the specimen before the patient gets up in the morning to bathe or urinate. At bedtime before the morning of collection, make sure the anal area is washed free of creams or powders.

Collecting the Sample

Make the collection in the morning before the patient gets out of bed. Remove the paddle from the tube and identify the one side that is sticky. Spread the buttocks and firmly press the sticky side of the paddle to each side of the anus. **Do not insert the paddle into the rectum.**

Put the paddle back in the tube and firmly replace the cap.

Returning the Sample

On the container write the patient name, birth date, date and time the specimen was collected. Return the specimen to the lab. Specimens can sit at room temperature for several days.