

Leaders in Laboratory Medicine

Pinworm Collection

How to Prepare

- The ideal time for this procedure is early in the morning prior emptying the bowels.
- Pinworm ova (eggs) are deposited on the skin near the anal opening during the night, or when the patient is at rest.

Risks or Cautions

- Do not wipe or wash anal area before collecting the sample.
- **Do not** insert the collection paddle into the rectum.
- Do not allow any stool to get on the paddle.
- Wash hands thoroughly after collection as pinworm eggs are highly infectious.

Labelling the Specimen

Label the collection container with the following information:

- Your (the patient) full first and last name
- The date and time of specimen collection
- Your unique personal health number (PHN or ULI#)
 Alberta PHN is found on the Alberta Personal Health Card



If you do not have a PHN or ULI please ask your local laboratory for alternatives. Please note all specimens need 2 identifiers to be processed.

Lab Requisition

- **Print** the date and time the sample was collected on your lab requisition.
- Fold and place the requisition in the outside pocket of the plastic bag.

Collecting the Specimen

- 1. Unscrew the cap from the container. Inside the container is a plastic paddle. One side of the paddle is coated with a non-toxic, mildly sticky material. This side is marked "sticky side". Do not touch this surface with your fingers.
- 2. Separate the buttock and using moderate pressure, press the sticky surface against the skin surrounding the anus.
- 3. Remove the paddle from the skin and place it back into the container. Tighten the cap.
- 4. Place container into biohazard bag.

Specimen Delivery to Lab

- Bring your specimen and requisition to your local laboratory as soon as possible.
 Prolonged delays will affect the test results.
- Store at room temperature.

Questions About Your Collection?

Laboratory location, hours and contact information may be found at:

- www.albertaprecisionlabs.ca
- Alberta Precision Laboratories 1-877-868-6848
- Health Link Alberta at 811