# USE OF ANTIGEN TESTS TO DETECT SARS-COV-2 INFECTION IN PATIENTS TREATED AT THE MILITARY INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN WARSAW

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Pandemic antigen tests have proved to be a revolution and have changed the approach to COVID-19 disease diagnosis. Compared to molecular tests, they are faster, cheaper and do not require specialised equipment. The European Commission recommended the use of rapid antigen tests as part of the European strategy against the COVID-19 pandemic. According to WHO recommendations, antigen tests for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 infection should meet the criteria of sensitivity ≥80% and specificity ≥97% with respect to genetic testing. The General Board of the Polish Society of Epidemiologists and Doctors of Infectious Diseases has defined which antigen tests meet these criteria. The conditions for rapid antigen tests were met by three tests: Panbio™ COVID-19 Ag Rapic Test Device Bioeasy 2019-nCoV Ag Fluorescence and Standard Q COVID-19Ag SD / SARS-CoV-2 Rapid Antigen Test . At MIM, in the period from may 2020 to november 2022 performed 11385 samples Panbio™ COVID-19 Ag Rapic Antigen Test Device. During the analysed period only 8.47% of the tests were positive. Such a solution provided basis for establishing coronavirus infection as when performing a PCR test