

# QuikRead go is Easily Transported in Home Care



## Nastola home care, Finland

Nurse Sirpa Surakka (Bachelor's Degree) works at Nastola home care, which belongs to Päijät-Häme Wellness Association. Päijät-Häme is a region in Southern Finland. There are six nurses working in two shifts at Nastola home care and approximately 100 home care customers living in the area. The home care team usually makes one to five visits daily to the same customer. In addition to home care, there is a service housing facility in Nastola, which also provides social and physical activities for the elderly.

Nastola Health Center is open during weekdays but the laboratory is closed at 1 pm. Patients who need acute care are directed to Päijät-Häme Central Hospital in Lahti, which is about 25 kilometers away from Nastola.

## QuikRead go in Nastola home care

QuikRead go instrument and the QuikRead go CRP test have been used in Nastola home care since 2018. The QuikRead go instrument has been easily transported to customers' homes using a carrier case. This has enabled the use of an immediate CRP result from a finger prick sample without the need of transporting the customer. If a home care nurse is visiting the customer without the QuikRead go instrument she/he can take a venous blood sample and measure the CRP with the instrument at the home care office.

Surakka says that point-of-care testing is useful since the result is ready immediately and there is no need for a referral to a laboratory. Point-of-care testing brings flexibility to patient follow-up and care, especially when laboratory opening hours are limited. Surakka thinks it is useful that the QuikRead go CRP test can also be used in home nursing for following up the effectiveness of intravenous antibiotic treatment. Based on the CRP values, a doctor can be consulted for the continuation of the antibiotic treatment or for other tests.

Distances in Nastola can be long and driving from one customer to another can take about 30 minutes. Point-of-care testing

brings flexibility to daily work. For example, CRP can be measured in the morning at the customer's home and during the same day, a doctor can be consulted for further actions. This way unnecessary transportation of samples and customers can be avoided, which saves both time and resources.

Fast CRP result is valuable also in situations where the nurse is considering whether an ambulance is needed or not. High CRP value is a clear evidence of an infection, which could indicate that the patient needs hospital care. When the ambulance arrives, the already available CRP result helps in evaluating the condition of the patient.

The QuikRead go instrument brings flexibility to home care procedures. CRP result measured at point-of-care supports treatment decisions. The possibility to perform point-of-care testing with the easily transportable QuikRead go instrument is important in a sparsely inhabited region where hospital and laboratory services are limited.



Nastola Health Center.



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