

Patient Instructions Sputum for Culture Collection

Labeling of the specimen, to include name, d.o.b., collection date, time started, and time ended, is required to ensure prompt testing and to eliminate rejection by the laboratory.

Your Provider has requested that you collect a SPUTUM specimen for CULTURE. A sterile container has been provided by the laboratory. Please read and follow these instructions carefully.

Prep for the collection:

- Before the collection, rinse your mouth thoroughly and gargle with sterile water.
- Do not expectorate (spit out) saliva or postnasal discharge into the container. This cannot be used for the testing and the sample will be rejected.

Collection of the sample:

- Cough deeply to bring up the fluid from your lungs. Expel the specimen into the sputum collection container provided by the laboratory. Place the cap on tightly.

Labeling the container:

- The source..... (Sputum)
- Your Full legal Name
- Your Date of birth
- Collection date and time of the sample.

Maintain specimen at **room temperature**.

Deliver within 2 hours to the laboratory. For **longer storage, refrigerate up to 24 hours**.

Note: Bring along any paperwork the doctor has given you for this test.

Effective Date: 6/2007
Revised Date: