
Sputum Collection - Patient Instructions

Expectorated Sputum

1. If possible, have patient rinse mouth and gargle with water prior to sputum collection.
2. Instruct patient not to expectorate saliva or postnasal discharge into container.
3. Collect specimen resulting from deep-cough in a screw-capped, sterile cup or other suitable sterile collection assembly.
4. Label cup/container with patient's name (first and last), medical record number (if available), date and time of collection, and type of specimen.
5. Maintain sterility and forward promptly.

Note: Specimen source is required on request form for processing.