

Routine sputum specimens for cytology are collected for the detection of premalignant and malignant cells. If sputum is being collected for the detection of Pneumocystis, fungal or viral organisms it must be noted on requisition slip. It is also very important that the specimen is collected fresh.

**Materials Needed:**

- › Specimen containers labeled with patient's name and date of birth, along with date & time collected.
- › Inpatient - Use EPIC to enter "Non-Gynecological" cytology order (Test #4001)
- › Outpatient - Complete and submit a "Pathology/Cytology" order either through EPIC or completed requisition form. Include customer billing information.

**Specimen Requirements:**

- › Collect series of 3 first morning specimens (one collected each of 3 consecutive mornings)
- › Post bronchoscopy samples contain abundant cellular material and are of particular diagnostic value.
- › Specimen should be collected before breakfast.
- › Specimen must be refrigerated until it is received in laboratory or immediately delivered to the Clinical Lab.

**Technique:**

1. Have customer rinse mouth with water and dry with towel.
2. Immediately collect fresh expectorated deep cough specimen into specimen container.
3. Label container with customer's name, date of birth, along with date & time collected.
4. If a series of three are collected, label each with # 1, # 2, and # 3.
5. Deliver specimen to Pathology Laboratory or through courier service.

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