**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.