

SPUTUM, CULTURE

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Required Specimen Type	Expectoration sample/sputum
Medical Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sterile container; • Biohazard bag;
General Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All specimens must include a double identification (first and last name of the patient and date of birth or medicare number). 2. The use of gloves is required when handling all biological specimens. 3. A valid requisition must include the following information : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First and last name of the patient, date of birth or medicare number and gender. • Date and time of specimen collection and signature of collector. • Physician's full name, signature and license number (or other qualified prescriber). • Any relevant clinical information. • Requested tests.
Patient Preparation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any sputum with saliva or post-nasal secretions are not acceptable for testing; 2. Only specimens obtained from a deep cough and with thick consistency are acceptable for testing.
Specimen Collection Instructions	<p><i>* Please note that specimen collection cannot be done at CDL centers.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Wash hands with soap and water 2) Rinse mouth with water 3) Open the sterile container 4) Cough strongly and deeply 2 to 3 times to produce an expectoration from deep within the chest. 5) Spit expectoration directly into the sterile container. A volume of at least 1mL is necessary 6) Close the container tightly 7) Identify the container with the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First and last name • Date of birth and Medicare number • Date and time of collection 8) Place the container in the biohazard bag 9) Wash hands with soap and water 10) Return the container <u>as soon as possible</u> to laboratory or physician's office.
Additional Information	N/A
Specimen Conservation and Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours at room temperature • 20 to 24 hours refrigerated