

## 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: