

SPUTUM COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS



1. **Lab:** Circle the test ordered

2. **Patient:**

- Write your name and date and time of collection on each container.
- Rinse or gargle with water before collection.
- Collect a first early morning deep cough specimen into the sterile container. Raise material from the lungs by coughing as deeply as possible, rather than collecting saliva from the mouth. If you have difficulty obtaining the specimen, contact your physician for an alternate collection method.
- Collect only one specimen in a 24 hour period.

Test Name	Test#/Code	Container	Comments
Sputum Culture, Stain (Routine bacterial)	6561/SPU	Sterile cup (screw cap)	Optimally, return to lab within 2 hours. May hold at room temperature and return within 24 hours if not possible to return earlier. Collect only one specimen/day. Lab will perform a screen for acceptability on the routine bacterial culture.
AFB Culture, Stain (Acid fast smear & Culture for mycobacteria/TB)	6617/AFC	Sterile cup (screw cap)	Refrigerate. Collect only one specimen/day. If multiple specimens are being collected on separate days, collect each specimen in a separate container. Write date and time of collection on each container. All specimen containers may be refrigerated and returned together. Recommended: Total of 3 early morning specimens collected on different days, as ordered by the physician.
Fungus Culture	6579/FUN	Sterile cup (screw cap)	Refrigerate and return within 2 days. Collect only one specimen/day.
Fungus/Pneumocystis Stain	6301 (Cytology Dept.)	Sterile cup (screw cap)	Refrigerate and return within 2 days. Collect only one specimen/day.
Sputum for Cytology	6301 (Cytology Dept.)	CytoLyte Tube	If specimen is to be shared with Microbiology, do NOT use CytoLyt™ fixative. Collect specimen in sterile cup and send to lab. Do not refrigerate. Three separate early morning specimens collected on consecutive days are desirable for an adequate examination.