

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET FOR THE COLLECTION OF SPUTUM SPECIMEN FOR CYTOLOGY

METHOD OF COLLECTION:

1. Sterile jar/container (yellow top) is to be used. In most cases your Doctor will provide you with such jar/container or otherwise contact the laboratory on the telephone number below to make arrangements.
2. Ideally the deep phlegm specimen should be collected early in the morning. A sputum specimen from any time of the day can be used only if this is not possible. Patients should clean their teeth and thoroughly rinse their mouth with water. Do not use mouthwash (e.g. Listerine).
3. Sputum should be a deep cough specimen and contain no saliva. The specimen is to be delivered to the laboratory as soon as possible after collection, if delivery is delayed specimen is to be refrigerated.
4. Label the jar/container with your name, date of birth, date and time of collection. Deliver to the nearest Medlab Collection Centre or to your Doctors surgery for transport arrangements.

MULTIPLE SPECIMENS:

If the request is “sputum x 3”, three (3) x specimens must be collected in consecutive days.

Collect a sample on three (3) separate (day 1, day 2 and day 3) days following the instructions above. It is preferred that each specimen be dropped off at the surgery or the nearest Medlab Collection Centre each day as soon as possible after collection or refrigerate the specimens if there will be a delay.

NOTE FOR COLLECTION STAFF:

Ensure you provide to the patient 3 yellow-topped jars/containers and 3 request forms which need to accompany the specimens. All 3 yellow-topped jars/containers must be labelled with patient full name, date of birth, date and time of collection, name of the test and barcode (when each sample received).

For further inquiries or additional information regarding this testing procedure you can either speak directly with the attending pathology collector or by contacting the main laboratory Customer Service Department on 1300 633 522.