

Sputum

Deep cough sputum

Each specimen container needs to have a *minimum* of two (2) patient identifiers to be accepted.

- Label container with patient's full name (first and last name), date of birth or medical record number (MRN). Include specimen source on container.
- Specimen should be collected when patient wakes up in the morning and before eating.
- Rinse mouth with water to cleanse before collection.
- Ask patient to cough deeply from the diaphragm to obtain an expectorate sputum and deposit into clean leak-proof container.
- An accompanying requisition with patient's full name (first and last), date of birth, medical record number (MRN), specimen source, ordering physician's name, date of collection, diagnosis, and pertinent patient history.
- Refrigerate specimen until transport. If transport is delayed or cannot be refrigerated, Cytolyt can be added. If culture is desired, do not add fixative.