

Sputum Collection

PATIENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

Test	Sputum Collection
All tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use only the provided sterile collection container. • For the results of your test, please contact the ordering physician or check your HealthElife account.
Culture and Sensitivity (C&S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring specimen to laboratory on the same day as collection. • Store specimen at room temperature.
TB – Tuberculosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring specimen to the laboratory within two hours of collection. If delivery delayed, refrigerate specimen, and bring to laboratory on same day as the collection. • If the doctor has ordered more than one sputum sample for collection, then samples must be collected a minimum of 1 hour apart.
Cytology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring the sputum specimen to laboratory as soon as possible so that a preservative can be added to the specimen. • Store at room temperature. • If the doctor has ordered more than one sputum sample for collection, then collect these on separate days. DO NOT collect multiple cytology samples on the same day. You will be asked to recollect them.
How to Prepare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect specimen in early morning/upon waking up. • Collect in a clean environment.
Caution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These collection instructions are meant to help you collect the right specimen for this test. Failure to follow instructions, improperly labelled or leaking containers may result in sample rejection. Contact the laboratory with any questions or if you require a new container.

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**Collecting
the
Specimen**

1. Confirm the collection container is labelled correctly with:
 - Your (the patient) first and last name
 - Another identifier such as date of birth (DOB) or healthcare number (PHN)
2. Rinse mouth with water and discard. Do not swallow.
3. Produce specimen by deep coughing. Saliva is not acceptable as sputum and improperly collected specimens will have to be recollected.
4. Remove the lid from the collection container and set aside. **Avoid touching the inside of the collection container and lid.**
5. Collect specimen directly into the provided sterile container. Tightly secure the lid.
6. Wash hands thoroughly.
7. Clearly write the collection date and time on the container and place into transport bag.

Facility information: