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Patient Instructions

PA Form 7

Sputum Culture Collection

1. Rinse mouth prior to collection to avoid contamination from saliva
2. Bring up a deep cough specimen, and spit it into the sterile container provided.
3. First morning specimens are usually more productive and are preferred.
4. Write full name and sponsor's social security number on the container's label.
5. Return container to the plastic bag provided and store in refrigerator.
6. Return to the laboratory within 4 hours of collection.

NOTE: Note: All sputum cultures will be evaluated qualitatively by gram stain before culturing. Specimens not meeting this criteria will be discarded and a new specimen will be requested in CHCS. Specimens will be cultured despite quality when the patient is neutropenic or immunocompromised, if indicated as such to the lab.