



<b>PROCEDURE:</b>	<b>SPUTUM</b>
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Medical supplies

- Sterile container;
- Biohazard bag;
- Stability<sup>1</sup> :
  - 2 hours at room temperature 18 – 25 °C
  - 20 to 24 hours refrigerated 2 – 8 °C

Preparation

- 1) Patient should rinse mouth with water;
- 2) Any sputum with saliva or post-nasal secretions are not acceptable for testing;
- 3) Only specimens obtained from a deep cough and with a thick consistency will be accepted for testing.

Collection

- 1) Open the sterile container;
- 2) Cough to produce a deep expectoration;
- 3) Collect expectoration directly into the sterile container. A volume of at least 1mL is necessary;
- 4) Close the container tightly;
- 5) Identify the slide by writing with a lead pencil :
  - First and last name;
  - Date of birth and/or Medicare number;
  - Date and time of collection.
- 6) Place the container in the biohazard bag;
- 7) Wash your hands with soap and water;
- 8) Return the container as soon as possible to your physician or to the laboratory.

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<sup>1</sup> Transport et conservation de spécimens dans le domaine de la biologie médicale, OPTMQ, third edition, 2003, p. 42. Note: Gram reading may be impossible after 20 hours.