



951 North Washington Ave
Titusville, Florida 32796
Clinical Laboratory

Sputum Collection Instruction Sheet

Purpose: Patient instruction sheet for collecting a sputum specimen.

Specimen Collection:

1. Patient must wash and rinse mouth with water.
2. Specimen should be collected in the early morning.
3. Patient must cough deeply. The sputum should go directly into the sterile container, which is supplied by the laboratory.
4. Instruct patient **NOT** to expectorate saliva or post-nasal discharge into the container.
5. Use the sputum collection kits for all sputum. Make sure the lid is on tightly.
6. Send only the inner plastic tube to the laboratory. Never send a leaky specimen container.
7. Deliver to the Laboratory within one hour of collection.
8. Be sure patient **name, date, and time of collection is on the container.**

The specimen must be delivered to Express Testing within **ONE HOUR** of collection. The hospital is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to receive incoming specimens.

If you have any questions, please call the Laboratory at 268-6134.