

Patient Information from



SPUTUM COLLECTION

(Acid Fast Bacillus or Sputum Culture)

The following containers are supplied by Meadville Medical Center Laboratory.

Acid Fast Bacillus – use sterile, double-walled specimen container

Sputum culture – use sterile, screw-capped, container

Care must be taken to avoid bacterial contamination of the specimen container. After removing the lid, place it on a flat surface with the inside facing up. Do not touch the inside of the specimen lid or the container.

Label the container with patient's name and date of collection before obtaining the specimen.

PROCEDURE

Before collecting the specimen, cleanse your mouth by rinsing with water.

The specimen must be a deep cough specimen (minimum volume: 1 tablespoon). Avoid contaminating the specimen with saliva. The best time to collect is just after waking in the morning.

Refrigerate specimen after collection. Deliver to the lab as soon as possible.



Please **report to Meadville Medical Center Registration** before delivering the specimen to the lab. This is necessary for complete specimen identification and processing.