

## **BRONCHIAL ALVEOLAR LAVAGE (BAL)**

*This procedure yields optimal material for the diagnosis of Pneumocystis carinii. BAL can also yield diagnostic material for chronic pulmonary diseases, including sarcoidosis and various forms of pulmonary fibrosis.*

### **General Instructions:**

- 1. The procedure is usually performed under mild sedation.**
- 2. Place bronchoscope in the lung segment to be lavaged and wedge to occlude the bronchial lumen.**
- 3. Instill 100 to 300 mL of saline in 20 to 50 mL aliquots and reaspirate into syringe and/or sterile trap.**
- 4. Label trap or syringe with the patient's name and unit record number.**
- 5. Fill out the cytopathology requisition or order test in LastWord indicating if the patient is immunosuppressed and the specific test to be performed on the fluid (i.e., stain for Pneumocystis carinii and/or cancer screen)**
- 6. Send separate specimens to cytology and microbiology laboratories.**
- 7. Place specimen and requisition/LastWord label in biohazard specimen bag and send to the Laboratory.**