

# SPUTUM

*Used to diagnose inflammatory processes and/or carcinomas of the respiratory tract.*

## General Instructions:

1. Collect three (3) early morning specimens on three (3) consecutive days.
2. Have the patient rinse their mouth with water prior to the collection of the sample to minimize oral contamination of the specimen.
3. Have the patient inhale fully and cough deeply until a specimen is produced and expectorated into a clean container.

**NOTE: Be sure the specimen is not saliva, which has no diagnostic value.**

4. If the patient is unable to produce a deep cough, induction of sputum will be necessary.
5. Complete the cytopathology requisition or test request on the hospital information system (HIS) including all pertinent clinical information and patient history.
6. Place specimen and requisition in specimen biohazard bag.
7. Send specimen to the Laboratory as soon as possible. Refrigerate the specimen until it is sent to the Laboratory.