

Education for Staff

Sputum Specimen Collection

Persons requiring sputum collection for smear and culture should have at least three consecutive sputum specimens obtained, each collected in 8-24 hours intervals with at least one being an early morning specimen.

Patients should be instructed on how to produce an adequate sputum specimen (containing little saliva) and should be supervised and observed by a healthcare worker during the collection of sputum, if possible.

The healthcare worker should wear an N-95 disposable respirator during sputum collection.

Send the sputum specimen directly to the microbiology lab

Physician Orders

Patients admitted with a diagnosis of TB or R/O TB

1. Place the patient in a negative pressure room.
2. Place the patient on Airborne Precautions Isolation
3. Collect AFB sputum specimen every 8 hours times three
4. Collect the first sputum specimen on admission, **one sputum specimen must be collected in the early morning before breakfast and the third sputum specimen should be collected at least 8 hours later.**
5. If patient is unable to produce sputum have Respiratory Therapy induce sputum every 8 hours times three (one specimen must be collected in the early morning before breakfast)
6. Place PPD skin test.