

**PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR OUTPATIENT SPUTUM CULTURE COLLECTION**

Your doctor has ordered a test which requires you to collect a sputum specimen for examination by the laboratory. In order to make sure the specimen can be used for testing, please read and follow the directions printed below.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Label the specimen container with your name, date of birth, and date/time of collection. **If not properly labeled, the sample will be rejected.**
2. Upon rising in the AM, before eating, rinse your mouth with water.
3. Expectorate a deep cough specimen into the specimen cup.
4. Try to collect at least one tablespoon of specimen.
5. Cap the container tightly.
6. Refrigerate the specimen after collection.
7. Deliver the specimen to the outpatient laboratory within 24 hours.

\*\*NOTE: If the specimen is greater than 24 hours old, the specimen will be rejected.

If you have any questions, please call 907-1637 for assistance.