



Diagnostic
Pathology
Medical
Group, Inc.

SPECIMEN HANDLING REQUIREMENTS NON-GYN:

SPUTUM:

A fresh, FIRST MORNING SPUTUM specimen should be collected. The second of the series is to aerosol induced in a sputum container and sent to the Laboratory as soon as possible. At least three sputum examinations are required for accurate evaluation. Printed instructions to the patients will be provided and should be given to the patient with the sputum container at the time that the patient is instructed, regarding collection of the specimen. A separate sample is necessary for Bacteriologic Study.

BRONCH BRUSH:

Place brush in "Cytolyt" solution for processing. If unavailable, place in saline and send to Laboratory as soon as possible.

BRONCH WASH:

Send entire specimen to the Laboratory as soon as possible to avoid cell deterioration. Please indicate on slip if specimen stains or cultures are desired.

GASTRIC, ESOPHAGEAL, OR BILIARY BRUSH:

Place brush in Cytolyt solution. If unavailable, place in saline and send to Laboratory as soon as possible.

PLEURAL AND ASCITIC FLUID:

Collect specimen with anticoagulant ((1 cc of 10% EDTA/100 cc or 1 cc (10,000 u/cc)). If obtained after Laboratory hours, refrigerate overnight and send to the Laboratory as soon as possible.

BUCCAL SMEARS:

The first scraping of the buccal mucosa using a tongue blade or spatula should be discarded. Scrape the mucosa firmly several more times, spread as rapidly and evenly as possible over 2.3 of a clean glass slide and fix immediately before drying can occur in 95% ethyl alcohol. Repeat this procedure three times and submit three separate slides. One additional scraping should be taken and spatula rinsed in 5 cc of Ringers solution and brought immediately to the Laboratory.

OTHER FLUIDS:

Place in Cytolyt. If not available, send fresh to the Laboratory as soon as possible.

Always label the specimen container with patient's name (first and last), the specimen type, the date of collection and a second identifier unique to the patient such as DOB. *Remember, we receive specimens from many offices and last name alone will not suffice to properly identify a specimen. All primary specimen containers must be labeled with 2 identifiers.*

**All specimens should be refrigerated if there is to be a delay in transit/processing.
Request forms should be completed with all pertinent patient information and history provided.**