



## COLLECTION PROCEDURE

### SPUTUM

Dear Patient:

You have been asked by your physician to collect a sputum sample. The quality of the specimen is very important, so please follow the collection procedure carefully.

#### **Sputum**

- Sputum is material that comes from deep in the lungs. It is neither saliva nor nasopharyngeal secretions.
- Sputum specimens should consist of 5-15 mL of material collected first thing in the morning.
- Sputum should be collected after you have brushed your teeth/removed dentures, rinsed your mouth, and gargled with water. (Mouthwashes, which often contain antibacterial agents, should not be used).
- Cough deeply and expectorate sputum into the sterile wide-mouth container supplied to you.

**PLEASE NOTE: SALIVA IS UNACCEPTABLE FOR CULTURE**

If you have any questions, please call Client Services, Interpath Lab at 800-700-6891.