Instructions for Collecting Sputum for a TB Test

LEGUIRES FIRST CLASS PE (BATH BLDG 52-4) MELABORATORY OF PUBLE MOTH WILMINGTON ST. 1 30X 28047 LIDA, NORTH CAROLINA 27

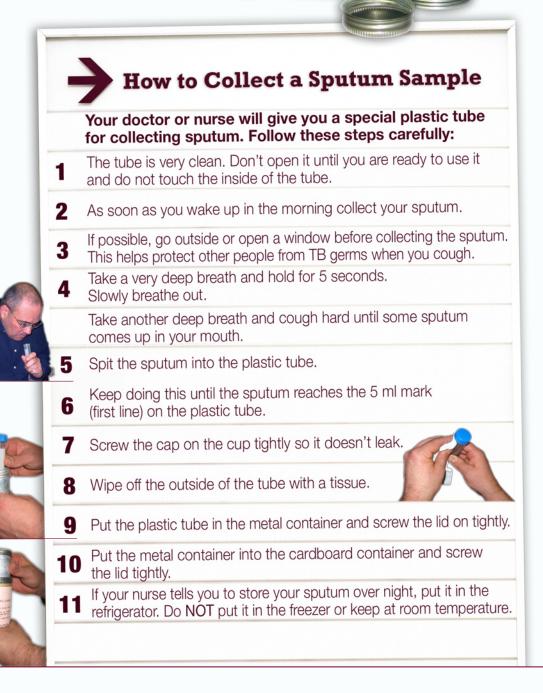
CLINICAL

Why Do I Need a Sputum Test?

Your doctor wants to look for tuberculosis germs in the fluid of your lungs – sputum – or "phlegm" that you cough up from your lungs.

Checking your sputum is the best way to find out if you have TB disease. If you are already taking medicine for TB, checking your sputum is the best way to tell if the medicine is working. The laboratory will report the results to your doctor.

To get a good sample, you must cough up sputum from deep in your lungs. Sputum from your lungs is usually thick and sticky. This does not include saliva (spit) or sinus drainage in your throat (snot). Saliva is thin and watery. DO NOT collect saliva.







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