

 <p>OSPEDALE SAN RAFFAELE</p>	<p><b>Servizio di Medicina di Laboratorio</b></p>	<p><b>AMBULATORI PRELIEVI ESTERNI</b></p> <p>Mod18E-rev5 del 10/10/2014 Inglese</p>
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## SPUTUM FOR CULTURE

Use the container given by the lab.

Patient should rinse mouth and gargle with water immediately prior to collection.

Collect specimen from deep cough into a sterile container.

Patient should avoid any contamination with saliva.

Return specimen as soon as possible (preferably within half an hour of collection) within the opening time of the lab. If there is a delay, specimen should be refrigerated. Please label the specimen container with patient's name, date and time.

### IMPORTANT

Sputum is the thick mucus or phlegm that is coughed up from the lower respiratory tract (bronchi and lungs); it is not saliva or spit. Care must be taken in the sample collection process to ensure that the sample is from the lower airways and not the upper respiratory tract. If a sample is mostly saliva, the microorganisms grown in culture will not necessarily be those causing the infection. Furthermore, the presence of saliva and bacteria from the mouth in a sputum sample make it more difficult to identify disease-causing bacteria in the lungs, then the sample is not adequate for culture and a re-collection of the sample may be required.

La Direzione del  
Servizio di Medicina di Laboratorio  
Ospedale San Raffaele