

Sputum Culture



Alternate Name:	None
Performing Lab:	New Hanover
Test Includes:	<p>Isolation and identification of potential respiratory pathogens.</p> <p>Antibiotic susceptibility testing where indicated.</p> <p>Gram stain</p> <p>Cytologic screening for acceptability. See Microbiology Specimen Rejection</p>
Specimen Container:	Sterile screw cap container or sputum Lukens-trap
Minimum Volume Required:	0.5 mL
Testing Availability	Routine: 24 hours/day
	Stat: No
Turnaround Time:	Preliminary reports available after 24 hours
Special Handling:	Specimens must be brought to the laboratory within 30 minutes of collection.
Patient Preparation:	None
Specimen Stability:	N/A
Reference Range:	Normal upper respiratory flora
Critical Value:	N/A
CPT Code:	87070
Testing Methodology:	Culture and microscopic exam
Causes for Specimen Rejection:	Improper labeling

Specimen not collected in a sterile container.

Specimen container must not be contaminated on the outside.

Specimens must be delivered to the laboratory within 30 minutes of collection.

Other Comments:

N/A

Clinical Significance:

N/A