
Section 4: **Management of Tuberculosis Cases**

Policy Number: **4.3**

Issued: **June 2007**

Subject: **Sputum Collection**

Revised: **July 1, 2018**

1. POLICY

- 1.1 Sputa should be collected from all persons suspected of having respiratory tuberculosis (TB).
- 1.2 Nurses will be aware of procedures for safe collection, management and disposal of respiratory specimens.
- 1.3 Sputum induction cannot be performed on reserve as there is not adequate training and/or infection prevention and control measures such as required ventilation to support safe performance of such procedures.

2. PROCEDURE

- 2.1 Obtain medical order.
- 2.2 Clients will be instructed, when possible, to collect their own sputa samples at home. If this is not possible, for infection control reasons at the health care centre/nursing station, sputum collection may ONLY be done if the client is brought outside. Negative air pressure rooms are required for indoor collection of sputum; however NO communities have negative air pressure rooms.
- 2.3 Obtain 3 consecutive sputa specimens of 5-10mL each. At least one should be collected in the early morning upon awakening; however, all three may be collected on the same day, a minimum of one hour apart.
- 2.4 Instruct the client to cough deeply bringing up sputum from the lungs, not saliva or nasal secretions. Give and review the sputum collection fact sheet. (Refer to Appendix H).
- 2.5 Each specimen container must be labeled and placed into a separate plastic specimen bag. Each specimen must have a completed Ontario Public Health laboratory test requisition placed in the pocket on the outside of the bag.
- 2.6 The collection container can be at room temperature before use. Transport the specimen to the lab promptly after collection. If transport is delayed for more than one hour the specimen must be refrigerated at 4°C (not frozen) and protected from light.

3. REFERENCES

- 3.1 PHAC. (2014). Canadian Tuberculosis Standards, 7th Edition, Chapter 3. p234, Retrieved from: http://strauss.ca/OEMAC/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Canadian_TB_Standards_7th_edition_English.pdf

- 3.2 Public Health Ontario. (2015). Tuberculosis Kit order # 390042. Retrieved from: <http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/LaboratoryServices/Pages/Kit%20Instruction%20Sheets/TB.aspx>