



## Sputum Cytology Specimens

In a recent review of processes, we now respectfully request any sputum cytology be sent as a separate sputum sample with a separate laboratory form, and not combined with other requests such as Microbiology microscopy, culture and susceptibilities (M,C, & S), and/or mycobacterial culture, etc. on the same specimen.

- Cytology (3 specimens – different days), separate specimens and laboratory form.
- Microbiology M, C, & S (1 specimen) and/or mycobacteria (3 specimens – different days), separate specimens and laboratory form.

Due to the different departments involved, the logistics of processing cytology along with other test requests on the same sputum sample can be difficult. It is also not optimal in terms of maximising sensitivity of the different tests.

Please include clear, concise clinical details to optimise specimen processing and result interpretation.

If cytology and other tests are requested on a single sputum specimen it will be processed for the most clinically relevant test and a recollect issued for the other test(s).

We are most grateful for your cooperation and assistance with this matter.

**Murray Robinson**  
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Please ensure all members of your institution receive a copy of this clinical update.