Submission Requirements

1. Two types of AFB/TB collection kits are available from SHL
   a. MYCO GASTRIC for gastric washings (contains a buffer), and
   b. MYCO for all other specimens (sputum, bronchial washing, urine, etc.)
2. Label tube with patient’s name or unique identifier, age or date of birth (DOB) and the date of collection.
   UNLABELED SPECIMENS WILL NOT BE TESTED.
3. A completed Bacteriology Test Request Form must accompany the specimen.

Specimen Collection and Handling

1. **Sputum**: Collect three specimens at least eight hours apart ensuring that at least one specimen is a first morning collection. The healthcare professional must give instructions for producing sputum. The patient’s mouth should be clean before producing a specimen. Sputum should be coughed from deep in the chest and placed in a sterile specimen container. Pooled sputum specimens are unacceptable.
2. **Bronchial washings, pleural fluid, etc**: Place in a sterile 50 mL screw cap conical tube. MYCO specimen collection kits are available from SHL.
3. **Tissue specimens/Bronchial brushes**: Add 4-5 mL sterile saline to a sterile 50 mL screw cap conical tube, and add the specimen.
4. **Gastric specimens**: Add the first morning specimen to a sterile 50 mL screw cap tube containing 100 mg of sodium carbonate as a buffer. Specimens not clearly labeled as buffered will be rejected. MYCO GASTRIC specimen collection kits are available from SHL.
5. **Urine specimens**: Add 40 mL (minimum of 10 mL) of first morning urine into a 50 mL screw-cap conical tube. DO NOT use buffers. Specimen must be refrigerated within one hour of collection.
   6. Screw the cap on tightly.
   7. Label the container with the patient name, specimen type and date of collection.
   8. Place the labeled container into a biohazard bag.

Test Request Form

1. Complete Bacteriology Test Request Form, including all patient identifiers, by going online to: http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/testmenu/formgenerator.xml.
2. Testing is dependent upon complete and accurate information; therefore, results may be delayed if information is not provided.

Shipping Instructions

1. Include completed Bacteriology Test Request Form in outside pocket of biohazard bag.
2. Ship at 4-8 degrees C soon as possible after collection. Clinical specimens should be received by the testing laboratory within 24 hours of collection to prevent overgrowth of contaminants.
3. Ship multiple specimens in packaging compliant with USPS or IATA regulations.

Contact Information

1. For test collection kits, go online to http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms, or call (319) 335-4466
2. For Mycobacteria testing questions: (319) 335-4256

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