

PNEUMOCYSTIS CARINII SPECIMENS: COLLECTION, LABELING, AND PROCESSING

I. Principle:

For processing specimens submitted for cytological evaluation to determine the presence or absence of Pneumocystis Carinii. Sputums, bronchial washings and bronchial lavages are included.

II. Ordering and labeling:

- Order the test in EPIC using test code LAB13 for Non-Gyn cytology.
- Enter the Specimen Source.
- Enter the source description in the box on the same line at the far right of the screen.
- When the Specimen Source is entered, another box opens below it for an additional specimen.
- Fill in for as many specimens as needed. Sign the order.

- Go to the Collection activity.
- Select collect all and document collection information by:
- Click on the pencil to edit all collection information for all specimens.
- OR click on the blue hyperlinks for each specimen to edit only that specimen's collection information
- NOTE: additional sources can be added and source description can be modified during collection **ONLY before** clicking on the Print Labels button.
- Click on Print Labels.
- Label the specimen container using the EPIC generated label.

III. Collection:

1. Requests for the identification of Pneumocystis carinii on sputum should be limited to confirmed or suspected AIDS or immunocompromised patients. For best results, sputum should be induced. Other sputum will be processed after cytology notifies the doctor of the low yield of these specimens. Document doctor notification in the LIS.
2. Normal saline should be used for lavages or washes.
3. The specimen should be collected fresh or in a sputum specimen container with Cytolyt fixative.