

INFORMATION FOR THE PATIENT

## SPUTUM COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

Sputum must be collected in the morning on an empty stomach.

Please observe the following procedure:

- ⇒ get a sterile collection container (available at a pharmacy);
- ⇒ thoroughly clean the oral cavity and gargle with water;
- ⇒ collect the sputum **after coughing** into the sterile container: the sputum must originate from the lower airways and it must not be saliva. If you find this hard to perform, coughing can be induced with aerosol using saline solution (not drugs).

Deliver the sample to the Cashier's/Admissions Desk in advance with the following items:

- *the referring doctor's prescription;*
- *personal identification documents (health card, identity card, any exemption cards);*

Deliver the container to the Sample Collection Centre **within two hours**, if possible.