

Sputum sample by post

Patient information sheet

How to send a lung defence or cystic fibrosis (CF) sputum sample to Royal Papworth Hospital by post

You will need:

- One clear plastic sterile sputum container with a bar-coded label issued from Royal Papworth Hospital with your details on (please do not confuse this with an addressograph label).
- A large specimen label.
- A clear plastic 'pathoseal' specimen bag.
- A biological substance jiffy bag addressed to Cambridge University Hospital.

How to send your sample:

1. Collect your sputum sample into the sterile sputum container, if possible on the day that you are posting. If the sample is not to be posted immediately then please place it in a refrigerator overnight (please note samples can only be refrigerated for one night).
2. Make sure that the sputum container is labelled with a bar-coded label with your name, Royal Papworth Hospital number and date of birth. Please write the date of the sputum collected in given space on both small label on pot and large label.
3. Place the sputum pot in the clear plastic 'pathoseal' specimen bag. Place the large specimen label in with the sputum pot. Do not stick it on bag. Close the 'pathoseal' specimen bag by removing the backing and gently pressing the adhesive.

4. Place the 'pathoseal' specimen bag in the pre-addressed postal jiffy bag. Peel back the self-seal tape to secure the contents in the bag.
5. Post the sputum sample on the same day if possible, using first class post. Please be aware that the envelopes provided are not pre-paid, and there will be a charge associated.
6. Results will be sent to the requesting clinician and you will be notified of the result if there is a clinical need.
7. If you wish to find out the result of your sputum culture please contact either the lung defence or CF specialist nurses, one week after submitting your sample.

Contact information

For lung defence nurses:
papworth.ldcicns@nhs.net

For CF nurses: papworth:
cfusnpapworth@nhs.net

We aim to respond to all patient email queries within 2 - 3 working days.

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Large print copies and alternative language versions of this leaflet can be made available on request.

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How to send a lung defence or cystic fibrosis (CF) sputum sample to Royal Papworth Hospital by drop off box.

You will need:

- One clear plastic sterile sputum container with a bar-coded label issued from Royal Papworth Hospital with your details on (please do not confuse this with an addressograph label).
- A large specimen label.
- A clear plastic 'pathoseal' specimen bag.

How to send your sample:

1. Collect your sputum sample into the sterile sputum container, if possible on the day that you are attending the hospital. If the sample is not to be brought to the hospital the same day, please place it in a refrigerator overnight (please note samples can only be refrigerated for one night).
2. Make sure that the sputum container is labelled with a bar-coded label with your name, Royal Papworth Hospital number and date of birth. Please write the date of the sputum collected in given space on both small label on pot and large label.
3. Place the sputum pot in the clear plastic specimen bag. Place the large specimen label in with the sputum pot. Do not stick it on bag. Close the specimen bag by removing the backing and gently pressing the adhesive, or by pressing together the two click seal edges.

4. Bring the sample to the Hospital on the same day if possible, using the designated drop-off box in the outpatient reception area. Please be aware the sample will be discarded if incorrectly labelled, or if there is no bar-coded label present.
5. Results will be sent to the requesting clinician and you will be notified of the result if there is a clinical need.
6. If you wish to find out the result of your sputum culture please contact either the lung defence or CF specialist nurses, one week after submitting your sample.

Contact information

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