

# SPECIMEN COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

## Bronchoalveolar Lavage (BAL)

### Indications

For detection and characterization of malignancy; identification of microbiologic pathogens (viral, fungal), and detection of some special cellular elements.

### Specimen Required

Bronchoscopically-obtained lavage (preferably at least 20 mL) of the distal airway and alveoli in the distribution of the suspected lesion.

### Supplies

- Standard bronchoscopy equipment.
- 120 mL clean plastic specimen containers.

## Specimen Collection:

Using standard bronchoscopy BAL technique, lavage the lung distribution in question with normal saline (or other physiologic solution). Collect the lavage specimen in a clean specimen container.

Label the container with the patient's full first and last name, second unique identifier, and "BAL". Submit the specimen, along with the completed requisition, to the cytopathology laboratory. If transport will be delayed, refrigerate the specimen. [Do not add fixative to the specimen if lipid pneumonia is suspected.](#)

If culture is desired, use culture medium and submit to clinical lab.