West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources - Division of TB Elimination

STANDING ORDERS FOR SPUTUM COLLECTION OF AFB SMEAR AND CULTURE

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TO: All WV Local Health Departments

FROM: Sandra Elliott, MD
WV Division of TB Elimination

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1. Submit all specimens to WV Office of Laboratory Services (OLS). Time mailings so they don't arrive on a holiday or weekend.
2. Use the procedure shown on OLS website for correct process of collecting specimen at: www.wvdhhr.org/labservices/shared/docs/TB/AFB_Patient_Collection_Instructions.pdf.
3. For any suspect case of TB, obtain sputum X 3 on consecutive mornings for smear and culture.
4. For all active TB cases:
   - Obtain initial sputum X 3 on consecutive days for smear and culture.
   - Then obtain sputum X 3 on consecutive days for smear and culture two weeks after start of treatment.
   - Then obtain sputum X 3 on consecutive days every two weeks until all three consecutive smears are negative.
   - Then obtain sputum X 3 on consecutive days monthly until culture negative X 3 for two months.
5. Follow above criteria unless otherwise instructed by clinician.

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