

**Collection**

Submit saline lavage specimen in a sterile container, sterile auger suction container or sterile specimen trap.



Sterile Container

OR



Sterile auger suction container or specimen trap

**Specimen  
Volume  
Requirements**

	Optimal	Minimum
<b>Microbiology</b>	10 mL	5 mL
<b>Public Health</b>	10 mL	5 mL
<b>Cytopathology</b>	10 mL	3 mL
<b>Flow Cytometry</b>	3 mL	1 mL
<b>Hematology</b>	4 mL	3 mL

For specific clinical section BAL information, refer to clinical section test pages in the [Alberta Precision Laboratories Test Directory](#):

[Microbiology](#)    [Cytopathology](#)    [Hematology](#)

**Ordering/  
Requisition  
Requirements**

Submitting locations without access to SCM ordering, and all locations requesting ‘Interstitial Lung Disease Differential’ and/or ‘BAL Cytopathology’ testing, must use the **Bronchoalveolar Lavage/ Bronchial Wash Requisition REQ9024MI**. All tests can be ordered on this requisition with the exception of: Tissue Biopsy specimens and Non-BAL Cytopathology specimens

- Each different body site requires its own requisition. **Do not use one** requisition for multiple body sites.
- Include a contact name and number to resolve any specimen labelling or requisition problems.
- Indicate Quantitative Culture for BAL collections performed using procedure **Bronchoscopy Guideline VAPP-004**.
- Indicate Routine Culture if BAL collection has **not** been performed using **Bronchoscopy Guideline VAPP-004**.
  - Only specimens collected as per **Bronchoscopy Guideline VAPP-004** will be processed for quantitative culture.
  - Those specimens not collected as per VAPP-004 procedure will be processed as a Bronchial Wash.

**Note:** The *Bronchoalveolar Lavage/ Bronchial Wash Requisition REQ9024MI* is not utilized for requesting cultures on Bronchial brush specimens, the *Microbiology Requisition REQ9021MI* must be completed for this specimen type.



**Specimen  
Labelling  
Requirements**

Label each specimen with:

- Patient's first and last name
- Personal Health Number (PHN) or Regional Health Record Number (RHRN)
- Date and time of collection
- Specimen source

**Specimen  
Packaging**

All specimens must be packaged and labelled as outlined in the ***Bronchoscopy Specimen Packaging Instructions REG5286***.

- Ensure specimen container lids are secure to prevent any leakage.
- Place each specimen into an individual resealable specimen transport bag.
- Place requisition in outer pouch of individual resealable specimen transport bag.
- Place all the individual specimen transport bags from same patient and body site into a large resealable plastic bag labelled with the *Bronchoscopy Specimen Destination Label REG5285*. DO NOT package specimens from multiple patients in the same large transport bag.
  - Use of the *Bronchoscopy Specimen Destination Label REG5285* is not required when **only** an **Anatomic Pathology (AP) biopsy** or a **non-BAL Cytopathology** specimen is collected (**no BAL specimens**); the AP specimen is tested at the collection site AP laboratory.
  - Use of the *Bronchoscopy Specimen Destination Label REG5285* is required whenever an Anatomic Pathology (AP) biopsy or Non-BAL Cytopathology specimen is collected **in conjunction with BAL specimens** or if a BAL Cytopathology specimen is collected.

**Note:** *Bronchoscopy Specimen Destination Label REG5285* may be requested via email by contacting:  
MicrobiologyInventoryGroup@cls.ab.ca.

- Order when remaining label inventory is at 5 sheets.
- Provide 48 hours notice to allow for the delivery of supply.

**Specimen  
Transport**

Once packaged, immediately send **all** BAL and BW specimens regardless of testing ordered stat to the Accession area of the hospital laboratory. DO NOT transport bronchoscopy specimens using the Pneumatic Tube System

**Processing  
(Lab)**

- Calgary Accession staff, refer to regional procedure ***REG02-010 BAL and BW Specimen Flow*** for specific specimen handling instructions.
- Specimen **MUST** be received in the Microbiology laboratory at the Diagnostic and Scientific Centre (DSC) within 2 hours of receipt in the hospital laboratory.
- Store specimens at room temperature. **DO NOT refrigerate.**
- If there are multiple test requests and there is insufficient quantity (less than 15 mL), Microbiology staff contacts the Calgary Zone Microbiologist on Call to determine testing priority.



**Additional Test  
Information**

BAL and BW specimens are NOT suitable for anaerobic culture.

**Resources**

- *Bronchoalveolar Lavage/Bronchial Wash Requisition (REQ9024MI)*: <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/lab/if-lab-hp-cal-req9024mi.pdf>
- *Bronchoscopy Specimen Packaging Instructions (REG5286)*: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/lab/if-lab-tc-cal-bronchoscopy-specimen-packaging-req5286.pdf>
- *Bronchoscopy Guideline VAPP-004*: <https://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/Main/assets/Policy/clp-calgary-respiratory-icu-bronchoscopy-bal-vapp-004.pdf>