

CHAPTER 5
SECTION 2.1

MERETEK UBT™ BREATH TEST WITH PRANACTIN™ DIAGNOSTIC DRUG

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I. PROCEDURE CODES

83013, 83014

II. DESCRIPTION

The MERETEK UBT™ Breath Test with Pranactin™ Diagnostic Drug is a non-invasive, non-radioactive method for the detection of active *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*) infection. *H. pylori* infection can lead to chronic active gastritis, duodenal ulcer, gastric ulcer, and non-ulcer dyspepsia. The patient ingests Pranactin™ (a carbon 13 enriched urea). Breath test samples are taken before and after ingestion of Pranactin™. The breath samples are then analyzed by Gas Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometry at clinical laboratories.

III. POLICY

Benefits may be cost-shared for the MERETEK UBT™ Breath Test with Pranactin™ Diagnostic Drug for the evaluation of patients 18 years of age and older with clinical signs and symptoms suggestive of active duodenal ulcer disease.

IV. EXCLUSIONS

Benefits will not be paid for:

A. Patients under the age of 18.

B. The use of the MERETEK UBT™ Breath Test with Pranactin™ Diagnostic Drug for monitoring the efficacy of antimicrobial therapies for the treatment of *H. pylori* infection.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE September 17, 1996.

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