

CHAPTER 5  
SECTION 2.1

# MERETEK UBT™ BREATH TEST WITH PRANACTIN™ DIAGNOSTIC DRUG

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## I. PROCEDURE CODE

**83019**

## 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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