



## **Breath Hydrogen Test Price Quote**

### ***About Breath Hydrogen***

The hydrogen breath test uses a measurement of hydrogen in the breath to test for a number of conditions that cause gastrointestinal symptoms. It can be used to diagnose lactase deficiency, fructose intolerance, bacterial overgrowth, or oro-cecal gastrointestinal (rapid) transit. Only anaerobic bacteria in the colon are capable of producing hydrogen. The bacteria produce hydrogen when they are exposed to unabsorbed food. Excessive amounts of hydrogen also may be produced in a condition called bacterial overgrowth. Bacterial overgrowth occurs when the bacteria in the colon move back into the small intestine. The bacteria are exposed to food in the small intestine that has not been fully digested and absorbed. Regardless of the condition causing the excessive production of hydrogen, the end result is the same. Some of the hydrogen produced by the bacteria is absorbed into the blood flowing through the wall of the intestine and colon. The blood travels to the lungs where the hydrogen is released and exhaled in the breath where it can be measured. Prior to hydrogen breath testing, a special diet may be required and individuals must fast for at least 12 hours. At the start of the test, a sample breath is taken. The individual blows into and fills a balloon with a breath of air. The concentration of hydrogen from the sample breath is removed from the balloon and measured. The individual ingests a small amount of the test sugar (lactose, fructose, lactulose). Samples of breath are collected and analyzed for hydrogen every 15 minutes for three to five hours. After ingestion of test doses of the dietary sugars lactose and sucrose, any production of hydrogen is an indication that an intolerance condition is present. When oro-cecal gastrointestinal (rapid) transit is present, the test dose of undigested lactulose reaches the colon more quickly than normal, and, therefore, hydrogen is produced by bacteria in the colon. With bacterial overgrowth, ingestion of lactulose results in two separate periods in which hydrogen is produced: the first period produces excessive hydrogen caused by the bacteria in the small intestine and the second period produces excessive hydrogen caused by the bacteria in the colon.

### ***Billing***

Listed below is the specific billing code and associated fee for the Breath Hydrogen test. The actual allowed amount (the amount of the billed charge deemed payable by an insurance plan) for each charge and the amount of your out-of-pocket expenses will depend on your particular insurance plan. It is important to check your individual policy and direct any questions to your insurer to determine coverage and your financial responsibility prior to receiving treatment. There are three different tests – lactose, fructose and lactulose. Your provider will determine which tests are applicable in your situation.

Please be advised that you will be billed a \$52 supply fee for each kit not completed and returned for processing within 60 days. This fee will be billed directly to you and not your insurance company. Unused breath hydrogen kits may not be returned for safety reasons. If you complete the tests and return the kits after the 60 days, we will make an adjustment to your account by removing the \$52 supply fees. We will then bill your insurance company for the completed tests.

<b><u>Billing Code (CPT Code)</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Charge</u></b>
91065	Breath Hydrogen	\$287 each test

***Prices may be subject to change***