

*If there is a  
chance you may  
be pregnant,  
please tell us  
before the test.*

## Breath Test: Nuclear Medicine

A breath test shows the presence of bacteria in your stomach. It provides helpful information in treating stomach ulcers and inflammation. The test uses a radioactive tracer. The amount of radiation used in this test is small and well within limits that are not harmful to you. The test is done in the Nuclear Medicine Department and takes about 1 hour.

### Before the test

For 30 days before the test, do not take any antibiotics or Pepto Bismol®.

For 14 days before the test, do not take sucralfate (Carafate®) or any medicines that reduce acid in your stomach, such as:

- Esomeprazole (Nexium®)
- Lansoprazole (Prevacid®)
- Omeprazole (Prilosec®)
- Pantoprazole (Protonix®)

Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before your test.

On the day of the test, plan to arrive 15 minutes before it is scheduled to begin. Be sure to bring:

- Your physician's written order for the test if you received one
- A list of your allergies
- A list of all your current medications (prescription, over-the-counter and herbal)
- Photo ID
- Medical insurance information
- Medicare card (Medicare patients only)

Please come to the 8th floor Reception Desk in Galter Pavilion, 201 East Huron Street.

Parking is available for patients and visitors in the garage at 222 East Huron Street, across from Feinberg and Galter pavilions. For a discounted rate, please bring your parking ticket with you. Your ticket can be validated at the Customer Services Desk on the 1st, 2nd or 8th floor in Feinberg and Galter pavilions, and the 1st floor of Prentice Women's Hospital.

## During the test

When you arrive in the Nuclear Medicine Department, a nurse or technologist (tech) may ask you questions about your medical history. *If you think you might be pregnant or are breastfeeding, please tell the tech before the start of the test and before you are given an injection.*

You will be given a small capsule to swallow with a glass of warm water. The technologist will ask you to drink a second glass of warm water 3 minutes after swallowing the capsule. Then, 7 minutes after drinking the second glass of water, you will be asked to hold your breath for 10 seconds. You will exhale into 2 balloons through a straw. The test is complete after the second balloon is filled.

## After the test

You may resume your normal activities, diet and medication after the test. The radioactive tracer you were given is not harmful and becomes nonradioactive within hours.

Talk with your physician about your test results. You may obtain a copy of your results a week after the test from the Medical Records Department, which is located on the 2nd floor of Galter Pavilion.

If you have any questions about this test, please call the Nuclear Medicine Department at 312.926.2320, TTY 312.926.6363, Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 5:00 pm.