**Lab Dept:** Chemistry  
**Test Name:** GALACTOKINASE, BLOOD

### General Information

**Lab Order Codes:** GALK  
**Synonyms:** Galactokinase (GALK) Deficiency; Galactosemia  
**CPT Codes:** 82759 – Galactokinase, RBC  
**Test Includes:** Galactokinase level reported in nmol/h/mg of hemoglobin.

### Logistics

**Test Indications:** Diagnosis of galactokinase deficiency, the second most common cause of galactosemia.  
**Lab Testing Sections:** Chemistry - Sendouts  
**Referred to:** Mayo Medical Laboratories (Mayo Test: GALK)  
**Phone Numbers:** MIN Lab: 612-813-6280  
STP Lab: 651-220-6550  
**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours  
**Turnaround Time:** 8 - 15 days, performed weekly on Mondays  
**Special Instructions:** N/A

### Specimen

**Specimen Type:** Whole blood  
**Container:** Lavender top (EDTA) tube  
Alternate: Green top (NaHep), Green top (LiHep) or Yellow top (ACD) tube  
**Draw Volume:** 4 mL (Minimum: 2 mL) blood  
**Processed Volume:** Same as Draw Volume  
**Collection:** Routine venipuncture
**Special Processing:**
Lab Staff: Do Not centrifuge. Specimen should remain in original collection tube. Store and ship at refrigerated temperatures. Forward promptly.

**Patient Preparation:**
None

**Sample Rejection:**
Mislabeled or unlabeled specimens; gross hemolysis

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**Interpretive**

**Reference Range:**  
≥0.7 nmol/h/mg

An interpretive report will be provided.

**Critical Values:**
N/A

**Limitations:**
This assay is not useful for monitoring dietary compliance. See Galactose-1-Phosphate, Erythrocytes

This assay will not detect epimerase (GALE) deficiency or galactose-1-phosphate uridyltransferase (GALT) deficiency.

It is important to notify the laboratory if the patient has been transfused prior to specimen collection. The results of testing performed in erythrocytes are invalid following a transfusion, including analysis of enzymes, biochemical phenotyping, or galactose-1-phosphate.

The most common cause of galactosemia is GALT. In most cases, GALT deficiency should be ruled out prior to evaluating for GALK deficiency.

**Methodology:**
Enzyme Reaction followed by Liquid Chromatography-Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)

**References:**
Mayo Medical Laboratories Web Page (November 2016)