

## Hepatic Encephalopathy Adult Panel

In making a diagnosis of hepatic encephalopathy, other causes of decreased level of consciousness must be considered. All patients with presumed hepatic encephalopathy need work up/treatment for potential precipitating factors (including but not limited to an infection screen with diagnostic paracentesis if they have ascites, medication assessment, screen for metabolic abnormalities, and assessment for evidence of GI bleeding).

Monitor Bowel Routine - Stool charting  
Until discontinued, starting today at 1601, Until Specified

### Microbiology

Consider other investigations as clinically warranted.

Blood Culture Panel - Adult x 2

Urine Culture, Routine

Urine General Toxicology Panel -- Urine, Other  
Once, today at 1601, For 1 occurrence

GR Chest 2 Projections  
Routine, Once, First occurrence today at 1602  
Is a mobile exam required? No

### Medications

Special Authorization will be required if patient is to be discharged on Rifaximin.  
Special Authorization Form

Lactulose OR PEG 3350 (Acute followed by chronic treatment)

Lactulose

lactulose PO

lactulose NG

lactulose 667 mg/mL oral liquid for rectal use (\$3.00)  
300 mL, rectal, every 4 hours, 300 mLs in 700 mLs of water rectally every 4 hours until clinical improvement. Retain for 30 to 60 minutes (use if unable to take oral therapy)

PEG 3350 PO/NG (consider with ileus, intolerance to lactulose)

PEG 3350 PO

PEG 3350 NG

rifAXIMin tablet (\$16)  
550 mg, oral, 2 times per day, if intolerance to lactulose or patient has experienced greater than or equal to 2 overt hepatic encephalopathy episodes.

Lactulose or PEG (Chronic Treatment)

Lactulose

lactulose liquid oral (\$0.45)  
15-30 mL, 3 times per day, Titrate dose to achieve 2 to 3 soft bowel movements per day

lactulose liquid oral (\$0.45)  
15-30 mL, nasogastric tube, 3 times per day, Titrate dose to achieve 2 to 3 soft bowel movements per day. Use caution with NG and recently banded varices.

lactulose 667 mg/mL oral liquid for rectal use (\$3.00)  
300 mL, rectal, every 4 hours, 300 mLs in 700 mLs of water rectally every 4 hours until clinical improvement. Retain for 30 to 60 minutes (use if unable to take oral therapy)

PEG 3350 PO/NG (consider with ileus, intolerance to lactulose)

polyethylene glycol 3350 powder (\$0.42)  
17 g, oral, daily, Titrate to achieve 2 to 3 soft bowel movements per day.

polyethylene glycol 3350 powder (\$0.42)  
17 g, nasogastric tube, daily, Titrate to achieve 2 to 3 soft bowel movements per day. Use caution with NG and recently banded varices.