

# Pathology and Laboratory



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## Regulatory Terms

### Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA)

- CMS issues a waiver
- Approximately 80 tests
- Little risk of error
- For more info., see [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CLIA/10\\_Categorization\\_of\\_Tests.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CLIA/10_Categorization_of_Tests.asp)



## Regulatory Terms

### Advance Beneficiary Notice (ABN)

- Non covered laboratory tests
- Patient is responsible for payment
- For more info., Web search “CMS-R-131”



## Modifiers

- 90 Reference or Outside Laboratory
  - Billed by physician but performed by an outside laboratory
- 91 Repeat clinical diagnostic lab test
  - Same test same day
  - Not used if due to error
  - Not used if there is a better code for a series of tests



## Modifiers

- 92 Alternative laboratory platform testing
  - Portable test kit
  - Single use disposable chamber
- 99 Multiple modifiers



## Unlisted Service or Procedure

- Check Category III codes before using unlisted procedure code

“If a Category III code is available, this code must be reported instead of a Category I unlisted code.”



## Unlisted Service or Procedure

- Special report
  - Description of:
    - Nature
    - Extent
    - Need for procedure
  - Describe:
    - Time
    - Effort
    - Supplies
    - Skills needed
  - Additional information about patient



## Organ or Disease-Oriented Panels

- Group of tests commonly ordered together
- All tests in the panel must be performed
- Additional tests can be coded also
- Some panels are included in other panels and should not be coded separately
- Be on the look-out for “or” “and”



## Organ or Disease-Oriented Panels

80047 Basic Metabolic

Panel (Calcium, ionized)

80048 Basic metabolic  
panel (Calcium, total)

80053 Comprehensive  
metabolic panel

Do not report 80047 in conjunction with 80053



## Organ or Disease-Oriented Panels

- 80050 General Health Panel
  - Comprehensive metabolic panel (80053)
  - Blood count, complete (CBC), automated and automated differential WBC count (85025 or 85027 and 85004)  
**OR**  
Blood count, complete (CBC), automated (85027) and appropriate manual differential WBC count (85007 or 85009)
  - Thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) (84443)



## Organ or Disease-Oriented Panels

- 80055 Obstetric Panel
  - Blood count, complete (CBC) automated and automated differential WBC count (85025 or 85027 and 85004)  
**OR**  
Blood count, complete (CBC), automated (85027) and appropriate manual differential WBC count (85007 or 85009)
  - Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)(87340)
  - Antibody, rubella (86762)
  - Syphilis test, non-treponemal antibody, qualitative (eg, VDRL, RPR, ART)(86592)
  - Antibody screen, RBC, each serum technique (86850)
  - Blood typing, ABO (86900) **AND**
  - Blood typing, Rh(D)(86901)



## Definitions

- Qualitative - What is present
- Quantitative - How much is present
- Example: Alcohol
  - Is there any alcohol in the blood (qualitative)
  - Measure of blood alcohol level (quantitative)



## Definitions

- Chromatography
  - Laboratory technique used to separate mixtures
    - Mobile phase
    - Stationary phase
  - “For Chromatography, each combination of stationary and mobile phase is to be counted as one procedure.”



## Definitions

- Therapeutic Drug Essays
  - Quantitative
  - Drugs given for therapeutic purposes
  - Can become toxic
  - Examples:
    - Lithium
    - Coumadin



## Evocative Suppression Testing

- Baseline and subsequent measurement
- Supplies and drug billed separately
- Physician attendance
  - Use Prolonged care codes
- Prolonged infusion codes from Medicine section





## Consultations

- Requested by attending physician
- Rendered by pathologist
- Written report provided
- Patient not present
  - Lab test
  - Specimen
  - Slide



## Urinalysis

- Read descriptors
- Commonly performed in provider offices
- Check payer contracts



## Chemistry

- Quantitative unless specified otherwise
- Same analyte in multiple specimens
  - Two analytes single stationary or mobile phase -82492
  - Two analytes using different stationary or mobile phase-82491 x 2



## Chemistry

- Same analyte in multiple specimens
  - Total of three analytes measured.
    - Two of the three analytes measured by single stationary or mobile phase – 82492
    - Third analyte measured separately using different stationary or mobile phase - 82491



## Molecular Pathology

- Analysis of genes
- Code selection is typically based on the specific gene(s) being analyzed
- Include all analytical services performed in the test
- Tier 1 – gene-specific
- Tier 2 – less common



## Hematology and Coagulation

- Test Blood Clotting
- Blood test
  - CBC
  - WBC



## Immunology

- Qualitative or semiquantitative 86602-86804
- Used to detect antibodies to the listed infectious agents
  - For single-step uses a reagent strip 86318
  - Multiple-step method
    - Code for each assay performed



## Example

- 1<sup>st</sup> test is run to check for any antibodies for enterovirus
- Antibodies identified for coxsackie A and B species
- 2<sup>nd</sup> test is run to identify the specific antibodies for each species
- Code 86658 would be used 3 times



## Microbiology

- Study of viruses, microorganisms, parasites and bacteria
- Presumptive identification – by colony
- Definitive identification – requires additional tests
- Code for additional studies
- Use modifier 59 for multiple specimens
- Use modifier 91 for repeat test on same day



## Anatomic Pathology

- Autopsy (also called Necropsy)
  - Gross exam only
  - Gross and microscopic exam
  - Limited
    - Regional
    - Single organ
  - Forensic
    - Coroners



## Cytopathology

- Study of cells for disease
- Obtained by several methods
  - Washing or brushing
  - Smears
  - Fine needle aspiration



## Cytogenetic Studies

- Study of cells for inherited disorders
- Must use modifiers from Appendix I “Genetic Testing Code Modifiers”



## Surgical Pathology

- Specimen – tissue sample
  - Has to be separately identifiable
- Divided into levels of progressive complexity
  - Level I – gross
  - Level II-IV gross and microscopic
- Additional codes for special stains



## Surgical Pathology

- 88302 – Level II
  - Skin, plastic repair
- 88304 – Level III
  - Skin – cyst/tag/debridement
- 88305 – Level IV
  - Skin, other than cyst/tag/debridement/plastic repair



## Surgical Pathology

- 88304 – Level III
  - Soft Tissue, debridement
  - Soft Tissue, lipoma
- 88305 – Level IV
  - Soft tissue, other than tumor/mass/lipoma/debridement
- 88307 – Level V
  - Soft tissue mass (except lipoma) – biopsy/simple excision
- 88309 – Level VI
  - Soft tissue tumor, extensive resection



## Pathology Consultation

Four types of consultations:

1. Report on prepared slides
2. Report on tissue requiring prep of slides
3. Review records and specimen
4. Consultation during surgery
  - Frozen sections
  - Cytology examination





## In Vivo

- Photometry
  - Non invasive test using visible and near infrared optical bands pressed to the skin
  - Measures bilirubin (neonates)
  - Hemoglobin, carboxyhemoglobin, and methemoglobin



## Reproductive Medicine

- In Vitro
- Cryopreservation, storage and thawing of embryos
- Sperm analysis



## Closing

- Take the time to read through this section.
- Highlight, circle, underline key words
- Read parenthetical statements.
- Read all notes

