

PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY
2009 CPT UPDATE
Effective 1/1/09

Each year the CPT code manual is revised to delete revised codes and/or guidelines, and to add or revise codes to reflect current technologies, techniques, and services. As a service to our clients, APS Medical Billing has summarized those changes to facilitate accurate reporting of the affected services as of January 1, 2009. The changes in the Pathology and Laboratory Section is a new subsection and three new codes for in-vivo point-of-care tests and new codes to report detection of non-viral enzymatic activity, coagulation and des-gamma-carboxy-prothrombin. Molecular diagnostic testing codes have been revised to specify intent for frequency or quantity when reporting.

Organ or Disease-Oriented Panels

Revised Code

- Codes 80048, 80053, 80069 have been revised to specify “Calcium, total (82310)” for Organ or Disease-Oriented Panels. This revision will clarify that total calcium, in contrast to ionized calcium is required when the user reports 80048, 80053, 80069.

Evocative/Suppression Testing

Revised Code

80400 ACTH stimulation panel; for adrenal insufficiency. This panel must include the following: Cortisol (82533x2)

- In support of the deletion and renumbering of codes 90760-90799, the Evocative/suppression Testing guidelines have been revised to reflect the appropriate codes to report for infusion services

Chemistry

Revised Codes

82040 Albumin; serum, plasma or whole blood

- Code 82040 was editorially revised by adding “plasma or whole blood” to the descriptor to broaden the list of specimen types appropriately reported with this code.

- 82375 Carboxyhemoglobin; quantitative
- 82376 qualitative
- Code 82375 was revised to delete the term “carbon monoxide” and replace it with “quantitative carboxyhemoglobin” as a parent code
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- 82955 Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PDP); quantitative
- 82960 screen
- In support of the deletion and renumbering of codes 90760-90799, the cross-reference following code 82960 has been revised to reflect the appropriate codes to report for infusion services
- 83026 Hemoglobin; by copper sulfate method, non-automated
- 83050 methemoglobin, quantitative
- An instructional parenthetical note was added following code 83050 to direct users to report code 88742 for transcutaneous quantitative methemoglobin determination
- 83880 Natriuretic peptide
- 83890 Molecular diagnostics; molecular isolation or extraction, each nucleic acid type (ie, DNA or RNA)
- 83891 isolation or extraction of highly purified nucleic, each nucleic acid type (ie, DNA or RNA)
- 83892 enzymatic digestion, each enzyme treatment
- 83893 dot/slot blot production, each nucleic acid preparation
- 83894 separation by gel electrophoresis (eg, agarose, polyacrylamide), each nucleic acid preparation
- 83896 nucleic acid probe, each
- 83897 nucleic acid transfer (eg, Southern, Northern), each nucleic acid preparation
- 83900 amplification, target, multiplex, first 2 nucleic acid preparation
- 83903 mutation scanning, by physical properties (eg, single strand conformational polymorphisms [SSCP], heteroduplex, denaturing gradient gel electrophoresis [DGGE], RNA'ase A), single segment, each
- 83907 lysis of cells prior to nucleic acid extraction (eg, stool specimens, paraffin embedded tissue), each specimen
- 83909 separation and identification by high resolution technique (eg, capillary electrophoresis), each nucleic acid preparation
- In CPT 2009 an effort is made to more clearly define the unit of service for the molecular

pathology codes. Following code 83887, a paragraph was added to the guidelines to inform users that each nucleic acid preparation may include a digestate, undigested nucleic acid or other uniquely modified nucleic acid sample. There are editorial revisions made to the molecular diagnostic codes to better clarify the original intent of these codes. Codes 83890 and 83891 were revised to add “each nucleic acid type (ie, DNA or RNA).” Code 83891 was revised to add “each enzyme treatment.” Codes 83893, 83894, 83897 and 83909 were revised to add “each nucleic acid preparation” and code 83907 was revised to add “each specimen.”

83925 Opiate(s), drug and metabolites, each procedure

- Code 83925 was revised by changing “opiates” to “opiate(s)”, the phrase “drug and metabolites” was added to the descriptor. The revision was made to clarify that if multiple assays are being performed to identify different opiates and/or metabolites, report each procedure.

84132 Potassium; serum, plasma or whole blood

84155 Protein, total, except by refractometry, serum, plasma or whole blood

84295 Sodium; serum, plasma or whole blood

- Codes 84132, 84155 and 84295 were revised by adding “plasma or whole blood” to the descriptors to broaden the list of specimen types appropriately reported with these codes

Revised and New Code

83950 Oncoprotein; HER-2/neu

83951 des-gamma-carboxy-prothrombin

- Code 83950 was revised by replacing the comma with a semicolon, making it a parent code for oncoproteins to accommodate the addition of code 83951.

Code 83951 was established to report des-gamma-carboxy-prothrombin oncoprotein and follows code 83950 as a indented code

New code:

83876 Myeloperoxidase (MPO)

- Myeloperoxidase (MPO) is a biomarker that can identify troponin-negative patients at risk for myocardial infarction. Code 83876 was established to report quantitative determination of myeloperoxidase assay as a means to track patients with cardiac markers for ischemic heart disease and as an indicator for risk and prognosis of patients with cardiovascular disease.

Hematology and Coagulation

New code:

85397 Coagulation and fibrinolysis, functional activity, not otherwise specified (eg, ADAMTS-13), each analyte

- Code 85397 was established to report coagulation and fibrinolysis, functional activity, not otherwise specified each analyte. Prior to 2009 there was not a code for this. 85397 appropriately fills this void; therefore, providing a code for assays such as disintegrin and metalloproteinase with a thrombospondin type 1 motif, member 13 (ADAMTS-13).

Immunology

Revised Codes

86805 Lymphocytotoxicity assay, visual crossmatch; with titration

86806 without titration

86807 Serum screening for cytotoxic percent reactive antibody (PRA); standard method

86822 lymphocyte culture, primed (PLC)

- The instructional parenthetical note following the subheading, Tissue typing, preceding code 86805, was deleted because the word “appropriate” is non functional for the parenthetical note.

A parenthetical note was added following code 86822 to direct users to codes 83890-83914 with appropriate genetic testing modifiers 4A-4G.

Microbiology

Revised Codes

87260 Infectious agent antigen detection by immunofluorescent technique; adenovirus

- A sentence was added to the end of the primary source infectious agent detection guidelines following code 87255 to instruct the users to report modifier 59 when separate results are reported for different species or strains that are described by the same CPT code

87802 Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay with direct optical observation;
Streptococcus, group B

87803 Clostridium difficile toxin A

87804 Influenza

87807 respiratory syncytial virus

87809 adenovirus

87810 Chlamydia trachomatis

- Code 87810 was converted from a parent code to an indented code to be included in the series of codes 87802-87899

New Code

87905 Infectious agent enzymatic activity other than virus (eg, sialidase activity in vaginal fluid)

- Code 87905 was established to report rapid testing utilizing an infectious agent enzymatic activity other than a virus. A parenthetical note was added following code 87905 to instruct users to report virus isolation including identification by nonimmunologic method, other than by cytopathic effect, with code 87255

In Vivo (eg, Transcutaneous) Laboratory Procedures

New codes:

88720 Bilirubin, total, transcutaneous

- For transdermal oxygen saturation, see 94760-94762

88740 Hemoglobin, quantitative, transcutaneous, per day; carboxyhemoglobin

- For in vitro carboxyhemoglobin measurement, use 82375

88741 methemoglobin

- For in vitro quantitative methemoglobin determination, use 83050
- The subheading following code 88399, Transcutaneous Procedures. Has been deleted and replaced with this new subheading for better characterization of these in vivo, transcutaneous procedure codes. Parenthetical notes follow each new code. Code 88400 has been deleted and renumbered to appear under the new subheading as code 88720

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The following resources were used in the preparation of this document: the AMA's *Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) 2009*, and *CPT 2009 Changes-An Insider's View*.