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## Prostate Biopsies Reduced Once Again in Medicare Proposed Fees for 2018

The Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) proposal for 2018 includes a 19% cut to the technical component for prostate biopsies (G0416) while professional fees will remain unchanged. If finalized, global reimbursement will decline by 11.5% to \$434. Global reimbursement for the 12-core prostate biopsy has been reduced 66% over the past six years. There is some positive news concerning a small increase for CPT 88305.

Overall, CMS estimates that the proposed changes for 2018 will decrease pathologists' Medicare fees by 1% while independent technical lab rates will be reduced by 2%. CMS is accepting comments on the proposed MPFS through September 11, 2017. Final rates are expected to be announced in October and become effective January 1, 2018.

### CPT 88305

The proposed Medicare Physician Fee Schedule for 2018 includes a 1.2% increase to the professional interpretation for CPT 88305, which, if finalized, would raise it to \$40.31. The rate for the technical component is being increased by 0.3% to \$29.87. Overall, the global rate for CPT 88305 will increase by a proposed 0.8% to \$70.18.

### Immunohistochemistry

The global rate for CPT 88342 (IHC first stain procedure) is proposed to remain at \$108.33; pro interpretation down 0.7% to \$37.07; technical component up 0.3% to \$71.26.

The global rate for CPT 88341 (IHC, additional slide) is proposed to increase 1.1% to \$93.21; professional interpretation up 0.3% to \$29.87; technical component up 1.4% to \$63.34.

### Flow Cytometry

Following significant cuts made in 2017, more cuts for flow cytometry codes are proposed for 2018. CPT 88185 (flow cytometry, TC, add on) is proposed to drop by 18.8% to \$30.59. CPT 88189 (flow cytometry, interpretation, 16 or more markers) is proposed to decrease by 4.4% to \$88.54.

The below chart reflects the proposed changes.

<u>CPT/HCPCS</u>	<u>Modifier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Proposed 2018</u>	<u>2017 CMS</u>	<u>Change</u>
88112		Cytopath cell enhance tech	\$69.82	\$68.91	1.3%
88112	TC	Cytopath cell enhance tech	\$40.31	\$39.84	1.2%
88112	26	Cytopath cell enhance tech	\$29.51	\$29.07	1.5%
88120		Cytp urne 3-5 probes each spec	\$642.43	\$640.97	0.2%
88120	TC	Cytp urne 3-5 probes each spec	\$581.96	\$580.32	0.3%
88120	26	Cytp urne 3-5 probes each spec	\$60.46	\$60.65	-0.3%
88121		Cytp urine 3-5 probes cmpr	\$536.26	\$553.76	-3.2%
88121	TC	Cytp urine 3-5 probes cmpr	\$484.07	\$501.72	-3.5%
88121	26	Cytp urine 3-5 probes cmpr	\$52.19	\$52.04	0.3%
88184	TC	Flowcytometry/tech 1 marker	\$61.18	\$61.73	-0.9%
88185	TC	Flowcytometry/tc add-on	\$30.59	\$37.68	-18.8%



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<u>CPT/HCPCS</u>	<u>Modifier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Proposed 2018</u>	<u>2017 CMS</u>	<u>Change</u>
88189	26	Flowcytometry/read 16 & >	\$88.54	\$92.59	-4.4%
88304		Tissue exam by pathologist	\$41.75	\$41.63	0.3%
88304	TC	Tissue exam by pathologist	\$29.51	\$29.43	0.3%
88304	26	Tissue exam by pathologist	\$12.24	\$12.20	0.3%
88305		Tissue exam by pathologist	\$70.18	\$69.62	0.8%
88305	TC	Tissue exam by pathologist	\$29.87	\$29.79	0.3%
88305	26	Tissue exam by pathologist	\$40.31	\$39.84	1.2%
88307		Tissue exam by pathologist	\$268.49	\$269.88	-0.5%
88307	TC	Tissue exam by pathologist	\$180.67	\$181.96	-0.7%
88307	26	Tissue exam by pathologist	\$87.82	\$87.93	-0.1%
88309		Tissue exam by pathologist	\$407.41	\$413.80	-1.5%
88309	TC	Tissue exam by pathologist	\$251.57	\$258.40	-2.6%
88309	26	Tissue exam by pathologist	\$155.84	\$155.40	0.3%
88311		Decalcify tissue	\$22.67	\$22.61	0.3%
88311	TC	Decalcify tissue	\$9.36	\$9.33	0.3%
88311	26	Decalcify tissue	\$13.32	\$13.28	0.3%
88312		Special stains group 1	\$98.61	\$99.97	-1.4%
88312	TC	Special stains group 1	\$70.18	\$71.42	-1.7%
88312	26	Special stains group 1	\$28.43	\$28.35	0.3%
88313		Special stains group 2	\$71.62	\$70.70	1.3%
88313	TC	Special stains group 2	\$58.66	\$58.14	0.9%
88313	26	Special stains group 2	\$12.96	\$12.56	3.2%
88331		Path consult intraop 1 bloc	\$98.61	\$98.69	-0.1%
88331	TC	Path consult intraop 1 bloc	\$32.75	\$32.66	0.3%
88331	26	Path consult intraop 1 bloc	\$65.86	\$66.04	-0.3%
88341		Immunohisto antib addl slide	\$93.21	\$92.23	1.1%
88341	TC	Immunohisto antib addl slide	\$63.34	\$62.45	1.4%
88341	26	Immunohisto antib addl slide	\$29.87	\$29.79	0.3%
88342		Immunohisto antib 1 <sup>st</sup> stain	\$108.33	\$108.38	0.0%
88342	TC	Immunohisto antib 1 <sup>st</sup> stain	\$71.26	\$71.06	0.3%
88342	26	Immunohisto antib 1 <sup>st</sup> stain	\$37.07	\$37.32	-0.7%
88367		Insitu hybridization auto	\$108.33	\$107.31	1.0%
88367	TC	Insitu hybridization auto	\$71.98	\$71.06	1.3%
88367	26	Insitu hybridization auto	\$36.35	\$36.25	0.3%
88368		Insitu hybridization manual	\$122.73	\$118.43	3.6%
88368	TC	Insitu hybridization manual	\$79.54	\$76.08	4.5%



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88368	26	Insitu hybridization manual	\$43.19	\$42.35	2.0%
G0416		Prostate biopsy, any mthd	\$434.40	\$490.96	-11.5%
G0416	TC	Prostate biopsy, any mthd	\$247.61	\$304.70	-18.7%
G0416	26	Prostate biopsy, any mthd	\$186.79	\$186.26	0.3%

*References – Laboratory Economics, Volume 12, No. 7, July 2017*