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Pathology & Laboratory 2017 CPT Update Effective 1/1/2017

Each year the CPT code manual is updated to delete 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, 2017. Again, the Molecular Pathology Tier 1 and Tier 2 subsections include a number of additions and deletions. In addition, changes in the Presumptive Drug Class Screening subsection, the Genomic Sequencing Procedure and Other Molecular Multianalyte Assays, the Multianalyte Assays with Algorithmic Analyses, Chemistry, and a new code was added to the Microbiology.

Below we have also outlined the changes made to these sections. **All new codes are highlighted in red** and revised/deleted codes are noted:

Molecular Pathology

New/Revised Codes for 2017:

Tier I

81327 SEPT9 (Septin9) (eg, colorectal cancer) methylation analysis

A new Tier 1 code has been established to report methylation analysis of the SEPT9 gene. This test was previously reported with Tier 2 code 81401. Since the addition of this gene analysis to the Tier 2 code set, the frequency of the test has increased to the level that is consistent with its intended clinical use. Therefore, this analysis has been removed from code 81401 and established as a Tier 1 code for 2017.

Revised Codes

In accordance with the establishment of cardiac ion channelopathy codes 81413 and 81414 and inherited cardiomyopathy genomic sequencing procedure (GSP) code 81439, Tier 2 code 81403 has been revised to include “known familial variant that is identified during a GSP procedure” in the analysis for “known familial variant not otherwise specified.”

In accordance with the deletion of code 81280, Tier 2 code 81406 has been revised with the removal of instructions that exclude reporting of code 81280



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Genomic Sequencing Procedures and Other Molecular Multianalyte Assays
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New/Revised Codes for 2017:

- 81413** Cardiac ion channelopathies (eg, Brugada syndrome, long QT syndrome, short QT syndrome, catecholaminergic polymorphic ventricular tachycardia); genomic sequence analysis panel, must include sequencing of at least 10 genes, including ANK2, CASQ2, CAV3, KCNE1, KCNE2, KCHN2, KCNJ2, KCNQ1, RYR2, AND SCH5A
- 81414** duplication/deletion gene analysis panel, must include analysis of at least 2 genes, including KCNH2 and KCNQ1
(For genomic sequencing panel testing for cardiomyopathies, use 81439)
(Do not report 81413, 81414 in conjunction with 81439 when performed on the same date of service)
- 81420 Fetal chromosomal aneuploidy (eg, trisomy 21, monosomy X) genomic sequence analysis panel, circulating cell-free DNA in material blood, must include analysis of chromosomes 13, 18 and 21
(Do not report 81228, 81229 88271 when performing genomic sequencing procedures or other molecular multianalyte assays for copy number analysis)
- 81422** Fetal chromosomal microdeletion(s) genomic sequence analysis (eg, DiGeorge syndrome, Cri-du-chat syndrome), circulating cell-free fetal DNA in maternal blood
(Do not report 81228, 81229 88271 when performing genomic sequencing procedures or other molecular multianalyte assays for copy number analysis)
- 81439** Inherited cardiomyopathy (eg, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, dilated cardiomyopathy, arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy) genomic sequence analysis panel, must include sequencing of at least 5 genes, including DSG2, MYBPC3, MYH7, PKP2, AND TTN
(Do not report 81439 in conjunction with 81413, 81414 when performed on the same date of service)
(For genomic sequencing panel testing for cardiac ion channelopathies, see 81413, 81414)

These codes were established to report these services and new parenthetical notes regarding the appropriate reporting of these three tests have been added



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Multianalyte Assays with Algorithmic Analyses

New Code for 2017:

81539 Oncology (high-grade prostate cancer), biochemical assay of four proteins (Total PSA, Free PSA, Intact PSA, and human kallikrein-2 [hK2]), utilizing plasma or serums, prognostic algorithm reported as a probability score

Code 81539 was created to replace the deleted administrative MAAA code 0010M

Organ or Disease-Oriented Panels

Therapeutic Drug Assays

New Codes for 2017:

80305 Drug test(s), presumptive, any number of drug classes, any number of devices or procedures (eg, Immunoassay); capable of being read by direct optical observation only (eg, dipsticks, cups, cards, cartridges) includes sample validation when performed, per date of service

80306 read by instrument assisted direct optical observation (eg, dipsticks, cups, cartridges), includes sample validation when performed, per date of service

80307 Drug test(s) presumptive, any number of drug classes, any number of devices or procedures, by instrument chemistry analyzers (eg, utilizing immunoassay [EIA, ELISA, EMIT, FPIA, IA, KIMS, RIA]), chromatography (eg, GC, HPLC), and mass spectrometry either with or without chromatography, (eg, DART, DESI, GC-MS, GC-MS/MS, LC-MS, LC-MS/MS, LDTD, MALDI, TOF) includes sample validation when performed, per date of service

(80300, 80301, 80302, 80303, 80304 have been deleted)

Three new codes have been established and new guidelines and parenthetical notes have been developed to replace the previous codes, guidelines and parenthetical notes that were used to identify presumptive testing procedures.

The new codes eliminate the use of multiple drug classes for identifying the type of presumptive testing procedure. Instead the three new codes used to report presumptive testing are intended for simple reporting these procedures. This is accomplished by identifying the testing procedure according to a category or methodology. This is exemplified within revisions to the guidelines for these procedures. The guidelines also specify use of each code according to the date of the procedure and include any



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ample validation procedures needed to complete the testing.

These codes are out of numerical sequence in CPT.

Chemistry

New/Revised Codes for 2017:

82542 Column chromatography, includes mass spectrometry, if performed (eg, HPLC, LC, LC/MS, LC/MS-MS, GC, GC-MS-MS, GC/MS, HPLC/MS), non-drug analyte(s) not elsewhere specified, qualitative or quantitative, each specimen

(Do not report more than one unit of 82542 for each specimen)

(For column chromatography/mass spectrometry of drugs or substances, see 80305, 80306, 80307, 80320-80377, or specific analyte code(s) in the chemistry section)

The parenthetical notes that contain the deleted presumptive testing procedures that were deleted has been revised to reflect the new codes and to indicate the correct codes for reporting these presumptive drug testing procedures.

83015 Heavy metal (eg, arsenic, barium, beryllium, bismuth, antimony, mercury); qualitative, any number of analytes

83018 quantitative, each, not elsewhere specified

(Use an analyte-specific heavy metal quantitative code, instead of 83018, when available)

These two codes have been revised in the Chemistry subsection to simplify the reporting of heavy metal testing. The word “screen” has been removed from the descriptor of code 83015 and the phrase “not elsewhere specified” has been added to the descriptor of code 83018.

83698 Lipoprotein-associated phospholipase A2 (Lp-PLA2)

(For secretory type II phospholipase A2[sPLA2-IIA], use 0423T)

In support of the establishment of code 0423T for reporting a test for measurement of secretory type II phospholipase A2 (sPLA2-IIA), a parenthetical note has been included following code 83698.

83700 Lipoprotein, blood; electrophoretic separation and quantitation

83701 high resolution fractionation and quantitation of lipoproteins including lipoprotein subclasses when performed (eg, electrophoresis, ultracentrifugation)



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83704 quantitation of lipoprotein particle number(s) (eg, by nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy), includes lipoprotein particle subclass (es), when performed

The revision to code 83704 allows reporting of any number of the different types of lipoprotein particles and subclasses depending on the patient's history and current assessment requirements

83789 Mass spectrometry and tandem mass spectrometry (eg, MS, MS/MS, MALDI, MS-TOF, QTOF), non-drug analyte(s) not elsewhere specified, qualitative or quantitative, each specimen (Do not report more than one unit of 83789 for each specimen)
(For column chromatography/mass spectrometry of drugs or substances, see 80305, 80306, 80307, 80320-80377 or specific analyte code(s) in the Chemistry section)

The parenthetical note has been revised to reflect the new codes for presumptive testing and to indicate the correct codes to report these presumptive testing procedures

84402 Testosterone; free

84403 total

84410 bioavailable, direct measurement (eg, differential precipitation)

(Do not report 84402, 84403 in conjunction with 80327, 80328 to identify anabolic steroid testing for testosterone)

Code 84410 was added to report measurement of bioavailable levels of testosterone.

Microbiology

New/Revised Codes for 2017:

87470 Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); Bartonella henselae and Bartonella Quintana, direct probe technique

87483 central nervous system pathogen (eg, Neisseria meningitides, Streptococcus pneumoniae, Listeria, Haemophilus influenza, E coli, Streptococcus agalactiae, enterovirus, human parechovirus, herpes simplex virus type 1 and 2, human herpesvirus 6, cytomegalovirus varicella zoster virus, Cryptococcus), includes multiplex reverse transcription, when performed and multiplex amplified probe technique, multiple types or subtypes, 12-25 targets

Code 87483 has been established to report nucleic acid testing for detection of central nervous system infectious pathogens.



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Cytogenetic Studies

Revised Code for 2017:

88271 Molecular cytogenetics; DNA probe, each (eg, FISH)

(For cytogenomic microarray analysis, see 81228, 81229, 81405, 81406, 81479)

(For genomic sequencing procedures or other molecular multianalyte assays for copy number analysis using circulating cell-free fetal DNA in maternal blood, see 81420, 81422, 81479)

In accordance with the establishment of genomic sequencing procedure code 81422, a cross-reference parenthetical note has been added following molecular cytogenetics code 88271, which indicates that codes 81420, 81422, and 81479 should be reported for GSPs or other molecular multianalyte assays for copy number analysis that uses circulating cell-free fetal DNA in maternal blood

In Vivo (eg, Transcutaneous) Laboratory Procedures

In accordance with the deletion of Category III code 0286T, the parenthetical note following the In Vivo (eg, Transcutaneous) Laboratory Procedures heading related to the use of code 0286T has been deleted.

Prepared by APS Medical Billing and Professional Consulting, Toledo, OH.

The following resources were used in the preparation of this document: the AMA's *Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) 2017*, and *CPT 2017 Changes-An Insider's View*.