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## Pathology & Laboratory 2018 CPT Update Effective 1/1/2018

Each year the CPT code manual is revised 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, 2018. Again, the Molecular Pathology Tier 1 subsections include a number of revised codes to conform to the parent code structure and 31 new Tier 1 codes 81102-81370 have been added to report gene sequencing and analysis (Pg. 2). There have also been revisions, additions and deletions for Tier 2 codes 81400-81406 (Pg. 6). In addition, there are changes to the Presumptive Drug Class Screening subsection (Pg. 2), the Genomic Sequencing Procedure and Other Molecular Multianalyte Assays (Pg. 6), the Multianalyte Assays with Algorithmic Analyses (Pg. 7), Chemistry (Pg. 7), Immunology (Pg. 8), Transfusion Medicine (Pg. 9), Microbiology (Pg. 9), Cytopathology (Pg. 10) and Proprietary Laboratory Analysis (Pg. 11). Also, there is a new procedure code for a bone marrow aspirate and core when done together (Pg. 1).

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

### Bone Marrow Procedure Codes

#### New/Revised Codes for 2018

38220 Diagnostic bone marrow; aspiration(s)  
(Do not report 38220 in conjunction with 38221)  
(For diagnostic bone marrow biopsy[ies] and aspiration[s] performed at the same session, use 38222)

38221 biopsy(ies)  
(Do not report 38221 in conjunction with 38220)  
(For diagnostic bone marrow biopsy[ies] and aspiration[s] performed at the same session, use 38222)

**38222** biopsy(ies) and aspiration(s)  
(Do not report 38222 in conjunction with 38220 and 38221)  
(For bilateral procedure, report 38220, 38221, and 38222 with modifier 50)  
(For bone marrow biopsy interpretation, use 88305)

Code 38222 has been added and codes 38220 and 38221 have been revised to reflect changes made for accurate reporting of bone marrow biopsy procedures. In addition, a number of parenthetical notes have been added and/or revised to accommodate the changes made.



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The AMA RUC RAW recommended a review of code 38221 for high-volume growth. During the review consideration was given to clarify the intended use of codes 38220 and 38221 in order to differentiate diagnostic bone marrow aspirations from therapeutic versions of this procedure.

## Presumptive Drug Class Screening

### Revised Codes for 2018

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

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

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

Codes 80305-80307 have been editorially revised to comply with CPT code convention regarding the display of codes with common language. The three codes include language that identifies elements that are common to the three procedures. The common language has been included before the semicolon in code 80305 and the duplicate language has been removed from the child codes 80306 and 80307

## Molecular Pathology

### New Codes for 2018

#### Tier I

**81175** ASXL 1 (additional sex combs like 1, transcriptional regulator) (eg, myelodysplastic syndrome, myeloproliferative, neoplasms, chronic myelomonocytic leukemia), gene analysis; full gene sequence

**81176** targeted sequence analysis (eg, exon 12)

Two new Tier 1 codes have been added to report analysis of the ASXL 1 gene. Code 81175 should be used to report the full gene sequence analysis and code 81176 should be used to report targeted sequence analysis.

**81230** CYP3A4 (cytochrome P450 family 3 subfamily A member 4) (eg, drug metabolism), gene analysis, common variants(s) (eg, \*2, \*22)



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**81231** CYP3A4 (cytochrome P450 family 3 subfamily A member 4) (eg, drug metabolism), gene analysis, common variant(s) (eg, \*2, \*3, \*4, \*5, \*6, \*7)

**81232** DPYD (dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase) (eg, 5-fluorouracil/5-FU and capecitabine drug metabolism) gene analysis, common variant(s) (eg, \*2A, \*4, \*5, \*6)

Three new codes 81230, 81231 and 81232 have been added for reporting common variant gene analysis testing

**81238** F9 (coagulation factor IX) (eg, hemophilia B), full gene sequence

Code 81238 has been established to report the full gene sequence of the F9 gene. This test was previously reported with Tier 2 code 81405. 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 is no longer reported with code 81405 and code 81238 has been established as a Tier 1 code.

**81247** G6PD (glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase) (eg, hemolytic anemia, jaundice), gene analysis; common variant(s) (eg, A, A-)

**81248** known familial variant(s)

**81249** full gene sequence

Three new codes have been established to report identification of G6PD variants in hemolytic anemia for validation of pharmacogenomics therapy

81257 HBA1/HBA2 (alpha globin 1 and alpha globin 2) (eg, alpha thalassemia, Hb Bart hydrops fetalis syndrome, HbH disease), gene analysis, for common deletions or variant (eg, Southeast Asian, Thai, Filipino, Mediterranean, alpha3.7, alpha4.2, alpha20.5, and Constant Spring)

**81258** known familial variant

**81259** full gene sequence

**81269** duplication/deletion variants

Three new codes have been established for reporting analysis of the HBA1/HBA2 genes. It was previously reported with a Tier 2 code 81404. 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.

**81105** Human Platelet Antigen 1 genotyping (HPA 1), ITGB3 (integrin, beta 3 [platelet glycoprotein IIIa] antigen CD61 [GPIIIa]) (eg, neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia [NAIT], post-transfusion purpura), gene analysis, common variant, HPA-1a/b [L33P]



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**81106** Human Platelet Antigen 2 genotyping (HPA 2), GP1BA (glycoprotein Ib [platelet], alpha polypeptide [GPIbal]) (eg, neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia [NAIT], post-transfusion purpura), gene analysis, common variant, HPA-2a/b [T145M]

**81107** Human Platelet Antigen 3 genotyping (HPA 3), ITGA2B (integrin, alpha 2b [okatelet glycoprotein IIb of IIb/IIIa complex], antigen CD41 [GPIIb]) (eg, neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia [NAIT], post-transfusion purpura), gene analysis, common variant, HPA- 3a/b (I843S)

**81108** Human Platelet Antigen 4 genotyping (HPA 4), ITGB3 (integrin, beta 3 [platelet glycoprotein IIIa], antigen CD61 [GPIIIa]) (eg, neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia [NAIT], post-transfusion purpura), gene analysis, common variant, HPA-4a/b (R143Q)

**81109** Human Platelet Antigen 5 genotyping (HPA 5), ITGA2 (integrin, alpha 2 [CD49B, alpha 2 subunit of VLA-2 receptor] [GPIa]) (eg neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia [NAIT], post-transfusion purpura), gene analysis, common variant (eg, HPA – 5a/b (K505E))

**81110** Human Platelet Antigen 6 genotyping (HPA 6w), ITGB3 (integrin, beta 3 [platelet glycoprotein IIa, antigen CD61] [GPIIa]) (eg, neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia [NAIT], post-transfusion purpura), gene analysis, common variant, HPA- 6a/b (R489Q)

**81111** Human Platelet Antigen 9 genotyping (HPA 9w), ITGA2B (integrin, alpha 2b [platelet glycoprotein IIb of IIb/IIIa complex, antigen CD41] [GPIIb]) (eg, neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia [NAIT], post-transfusion purpura), gene analysis, common variant, HPA-9a/b (V837M)

**81112** Human Platelet Antigen 15 genotyping (HPA 15), CD109 (CD109 molecule) (eg, neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia [NAIT], post-transfusion purpura), gene analysis, common variant, HPA-15a/b (S682Y)

Eight Tier 1 codes have been established to report human platelet antigen genotyping. Prior to 2018, these tests were reported with Tier 2 code set, the frequency of the test has increased to the level that is consistent with its intended clinical use.

**81120** IDH1 (isocitrate dehydrogenase 1 [NADP+], soluble) (eg, glioma), common variants (eg, R132H, R132C)

**81121** IDH2 (isocitrate dehydrogenase 2 [NADP+], mitochondrial) (eg, glioma), common variants (eg, R140W, R172M)

Two new codes (81120, 81121) have been established to report gene analysis of the IDH1 and IDH2 genes. These tests were previously reported with Tier 2 code 81403. Since the frequency of the testing for these analytes has increased to the level that is consistent with its intended clinical use.



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**81283** IFNL3 (interferon, lambda 3) (eg, drug response), gene analysis, rs12979860 variant.

Code 81283 has been added to report rs12979860 variant gene analysis of the IFNL3 gene. This test was previously reported with Tier 2 code 81400. 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.

**81334** RUNX1 (runt related transcription factor 1) (eg, acute myeloid leukemia, familial platelet disorder with associated myeloid malignancy), gene analysis, targeted sequence analysis (eg, exons 3-8)

**81328** SLCO1B1 (solute carrier organic anion transporter family, member 1B1) (eg, adverse drug reaction), gene analysis, common variant(s) (eg,\*5)

**81335** TPMT (thiopurine S-methyltransferase) (eg, drug metabolism), gene analysis, common variants (eg,\*2, \*3)

**81346** TYMS (thymidylate synthetase) (eg, 5-fluorouracil/5-FU drug metabolism), gene analysis, common variant(s) (eg, tandem repeat variant)

Code 81334 has been added to report targeted sequence analysis of the RUNX1 gene. Code 81328 has been added for reporting common variant gene analysis of the SLCO1B1 gene. Previously, analysis of the SLCO1B1 gene was reported with Tier 2 code 81400. Since the addition of this test to the Tier 2 code set, the frequency of the test has increased to the level that is consistent with its intended clinical use.

Code 81335 has been added to report common variant gene analysis of the TPMT gene, while code 81346 has been added to report common variant gene analysis of the TYMS gene. Previously, analyses of the TPMT and TYMS genes were reported with Tier 2 code 81401. Since the addition of these gene analyses to the Tier 2 code set, the frequency of the tests has increased to the level that is consistent with their intended clinical use.

**81361** HBB (hemoglobin, subunit beta) (eg, sickle cell anemia, beta thalassemia, hemoglobinopathy); common variant(s) (eg, HbS, HbC, HbE)

**81362** known familial variant(s)

**81363** duplication/deletion variant(s)

**81364** full gene sequence

Four codes (81361, 81362, 81363, and 81364) have been added to report analysis of the HBB gene. Analysis of the HBB gene was previously reported with the Tier 2 codes 81401, 81403, 81404. Since



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the addition of this test to the Tier 2 code set, the frequency of the test has increased to the level that is consistent with its intended clinical use.

Code 81361 is used to report common variant analysis; code 81362 for known familial variant analysis; code 81363 for duplication/deletion variant analysis; and code 81364 for full gene sequence analysis.

### **Revised Codes for 2018**

In accordance with the establishment of the new Tier 1 codes for human platelet antigen genotyping these eight tests have been removed from code 81400.

In accordance with the establishment of Tier 1 codes for gene analysis, DPYD, IFNL3 and SLCO1B1 have been removed from code 81400.

In accordance with the establishment of new Tier 1 for gene analysis, CYP3A4, CYP3A5, HBB, TPMT and TYMS have been removed from Tier 2 code 81401

In accordance with the establishment of new Tier 1 codes for genes analysis, IDHI, IDH2 and HBB have been removed from Tier 2 code 81403

In accordance with the establishment of new Tier1 codes for gene testing, HBA1/HBA2 and HBB gene tests have been removed from Tier 2 code 81404

In accordance with the establishment of new Tier 1 codes for gene testing, F9, HBA1/HBA2 gene tests have been removed from Tier 2 codes 81405

The Hugo Gene Nomenclature Committee has reassigned the KAL1 gene to the ANOS1 gene. To accommodate this reassignment, the KAL1 gene has been deleted from the CPT Molecular Gene Table and Tier 2 code 81406 has been revised to reflect that the KAL1 gene has been reassigned to the ANOS1 gene

## **Genomic Sequencing Procedures and Other Molecular Multianalyte Assays**

### **New Codes for 2018**

**81448** Hereditary peripheral neuropathies (eg, Charcot-Marie-Tooth, spastic paraplegia), genomic sequence analysis panel, must include sequencing of at least 5 peripheral neuropathy-related genes (eg, BSCL2, GJB1, MFN2, MPZ, REEP1, SPAST, SPG11, SPTLC1)

In the Genomic Sequencing Procedure section, code 81448 has been established to report a peripheral neuropathy panel, which includes sequencing of at least five of the following genes (eg, BSCL2, GJB1, MFN2, MPZ, REEP1, SPAST, SPG11, and SPTLC1). Previously no specific CPT code was available for reporting a peripheral neuropathy panel.



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## Multianalyte Assays with Algorithmic Analyses

### New Codes for 2018

**81520** Oncology (breast), mRNA gene expression profiling by hybrid capture of 58 genes (50 content and 8 housekeeping), utilizing formalin-fixed paraffin- embedded tissue, algorithm reported as a recurrence risk score.

Code 81520 has been established to report mRNA analysis of 58 genes using hybrid capture.

**81521** Oncology (breast), mRNA, microarray gene expression profiling of 70 content genes and 465 housekeeping genes, utilizing fresh frozen or formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissue, algorithm reported as index related to risk of distant metastasis.

Code 81521 has been established to report analysis to measure the risk of distant metastasis.

**81541** Oncology (prostate), mRNA gene expression profiling by real-time RT-PCR of 46 genes (31 content and 15 housekeeping), utilizing formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissue, algorithm reported as a disease-specific mortality risk score.

Multianalyte assays with algorithmic analysis (MAAA) code 81541 has been added to report prostate cancer mortality-risk measure test. The test provides information regarding the aggressiveness of the prostate tumor.

**81551** Oncology (prostate), promoter methylation profiling by real-time PCR of 3 genes (GSTP1, APC, RASSF1), utilizing formalin-fixed paraffin – embedded tissue, algorithm reported as a likelihood of prostate cancer detection on repeat biopsy.

Code 81551 has been established to report analysis of the methylation status of gene markers for detection of prostate cancer. Previously this procedure was not reported using a specific code; rather, it was reported as an unlisted molecular pathology procedure using code 81479.

## Chemistry

### Revised Codes for 2018

82040 Albumin; serum plasma or whole blood

85043 urine (eg, microalbumin), quantitative

82044 urine (eg, microalbumin), semiquantitative (eg, reagent strip assay)



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- 82045            ischemia modified
  
- 82042            other source, quantitative, each specimen

Codes 82042, 82043 and 82044 have been editorially revised to clarify the intended use of these codes. These codes are used to differentiate the quantity of albumin being tested, not the size of the albumin molecules. To eliminate confusion, the term “eg” has been added to the descriptor of codes 82043 and 82044. This addition clarifies the intent by using the term “microalbumin” as an example of what is studied as part of this procedure and not as a type of albumin that is small in size. In addition, the phrase “urine or” has been deleted from the descriptor of code 82042 to clarify that this code may be used for any source of albumin other than serum.

**Immunology**

**New/Revised Codes for 2018**

- 86003 Allergen specific IgE; quantitative or semi quantitative, crude allergen extract, each
  
- 86005            qualitative, multiallergen screen (eg, disk, sponge, card)
  
- 86008**            quantitative or semi quantitative, recombinant or purified component, each

Code 86008 has been established to report quantitative or semi quantitative, recombinant or purified component testing of allergen specific IgE. To accommodate the addition, codes 86003 and 86005 have been revised to accurately define current specimen collection and materials

86794 Zika virus, IgM

Two new codes (86794 and 87662) have been added to the Immunology and Microbiology subsections of the Pathology section to report Zika virus detection

**Deleted Codes for 2018**

- 86185 counter immunoelectrophoresis, each antigen
  
- 86243 FC receptor
  
- 86378 migration inhibitory factor test
  
- 86729 antibody lymphogranuloma venereum
  
- 86822 HLA typing; lymphocyte culture, primed [PLC]





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These codes have been deleted due to low utilization and to ensure that the CPT code set reflects current clinical practice

## Transfusion Medicine

86965 Pooling of platelets or other blood products  
(For harvesting preparation and injection(s) of platelets rich plasma, use 0232T)  
(For harvesting, preparation and injection[s] of autologous white blood cell/autologous protein solution, use 0481T)

In support of establishment of Cat III code 0481T, a parenthetical note has been added and another has been updated after code 86965

## Microbiology

### New Codes for 2018

**87634** respiratory syncytial virus, amplified probe technique  
(For assays that include respiratory syncytial virus with additional respiratory viruses, see 87631, 87632, 87633)

A new code has been established to report nucleic acid detection of respiratory syncytial virus. Code 87634 is used to report RSV antigen detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA), which also allows reporting of available RSV nucleic acid-based assays. Codes 87631, 87632 and 87633 are available for reporting nucleic acid testing for RSV, when performed as part of a panel of respiratory viruses. These codes should not be used to report RSV testing by nucleic acid technique when RSV is the only respiratory pathogen being tested for.

**87662** Zika virus, amplified probe technique

Two new codes (86794 and 87662) have been added to the Immunology and Microbiology subsections of the Pathology section to report Zika virus detection performed via detection of the infectious agent itself (ie, exposure of less than two weeks)

### Deleted Codes for 2018

87277 infectious agent antigen detection by immunofluorescent technique; Legionella micdadei

87470 infectious agent detection by nucleic acid [DNA or RNA]; Bartonella henselae and Bartonella Quintana, direct probe technique

87477 infectious agent detection by nucleic acid [DNA or RNA]; Borrelia burgdorferi, quantification



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87515 infectious agent detection by nucleic acid [DNA or RNA]; hepatitis B virus, direct probe technique

These codes have been deleted due to low utilization and to ensure that the CPT code set reflects current clinical practice

### **Re-Sequenced Codes for 2018**

87625 Human Papillomavirus (HPV), types 16 and 18 only, includes type 45 if performed  
(For Human Papillomavirus [HPV] detection of five or greater separately reported high-risk HPV types [ie, genotyping], use 0500T)

87910 Infectious agent genotyping analysis by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); cytomegalovirus  
(For infectious agent drug susceptibility phenotype prediction for HIV-1, use 87900)  
(For Human Papillomavirus [HPV] for high-risk types [ie, genotyping], of five or greater separately reported HPV types, use 0500T)

In support of the establishment of code 0500T, cross-reference parenthetical notes have been added after code 87625 and 87910, directing users to the appropriate codes to report for human papillomavirus testing.

## **Cytopathology**

### **Deleted Code for 2018**

88154 (cytopathology, slides, cervical or vaginal; with manual screening and computer-assisted rescreening using cell selection and review under physician supervision)

This code has been deleted due to low utilization and to ensure that the CPT code set reflects current clinical practice.

## **In Vivo (eg, Transcutaneous) Laboratory Procedures**

In support of the establishment of code 0493, a new parenthetical note has been added after the In Vito (eg, Transcutaneous) Laboratory Procedures heading.



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## Proprietary Laboratory Analysis

### New Codes for 2018

**0001U** Red blood cell antigen typing, DNA, human erythrocyte antigen gene analysis of 35 antigens from 11 blood groups, utilizing whole blood, common RBC alleles reported.

**0002U** Oncology (colorectal), quantitative assessment of three urine metabolites (ascorbic acid, succinic acid and carnitine) by liquid chromatography with tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) using multiple reaction monitoring acquisition, algorithm reported as likelihood of adenomatous polyps.

**0003U** Oncology (ovarian) biochemical assays of five proteins (apolipoprotein A-1, CA 125 II, follicle stimulating hormone, human epididymis protein 4, transferrin), utilizing serum, algorithm reported as likelihood score.

**0004U** Infectious disease (bacterial), DNA, 27 resistance genes, PCR amplification and probe hybridization in microarray format (molecular detection and identification of AmpC, carbapenemase and ESBL coding genes), bacterial culture colonies, report of genes detected or not detected, per isolate.

**0005U** Oncology (prostate) gene expression profile by real-time RT-PCR of 3 genes (ERG, PCA3, and SPDEF), urine, algorithm reported as risk score.

**0006U** Prescription drug monitoring, 120 or more drugs and substances, definitive tandem mass spectrometry with chromatography, urine, qualitative report of presence (including quantitative levels, when detected) or absence of each drug of substance with description and severity of potential interactions, with identified substances, per date of service.

**0007U** Drug test(s), presumptive, with definitive confirmation of positive results, any number of drug classes, urine, includes specimen verification including DNA authentication in comparison to buccal DNA, per date of service.

**0008U** Helicobacter pylori detection and antibiotic resistance, DNA, 16S and 23S rRNA, gyrA, pbp1, rdxA and rpoB, next generation sequencing, formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded or fresh tissue, predictive, reported as positive or negative for resistance to clarithromycin, fluoroquinolones, metronidazole, amoxicillin, tetracycline and rifabutin.

**0009U** Oncology (breast cancer), ERBB2 (HER2) copy number by FISH, tumor cells from formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissue isolated using image-based dielectrophoresis (DEP) sorting, reported as ERBB2 gene amplified or non-amplified.



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**0010U** Infectious disease (bacterial), strain typing by whole genome sequencing, phylogenetic-based report of strain relatedness, per submitted isolate.

**0011U** Prescription drug monitoring, evaluation of drugs present by LC-MS/MS, using oral fluid, reported as a comparison to an estimated steady-state range, per date of service including all drug compounds and metabolites

**0012U** Germline disorders, gene rearrangement detection by whole genome next-generation sequencing, DNA, whole blood, report of specific gene rearrangement(s)

**0013U** Oncology (solid organ neoplasia), gene rearrangement detection by whole genome next-generation sequencing, DNA, fresh or frozen tissue or cells, report of specific gene rearrangement(s)

**0014U** Hematology (hematolymphoid neoplasia), gene rearrangement detection by whole genome next-generation sequencing, DNA, whole blood or bone marrow, report of specific gene rearrangement(s)

**0015U** Drug metabolism (adverse drug reactions), DNA 22 drug metabolism and transporter genes, real-time PCR, blood or buccal swab, genotype and metabolizer status for therapeutic decision support.

**0016U** Oncology (hematolymphoid neoplasia, RNA, BCR/ABL1 major and minor breakpoint fusion transcripts, quantitative PCR amplification, blood or bone marrow, report of fusion not detected or detected with quantitation

**0017U** Oncology (hematolymphoid neoplasia), JAK2 mutation, NA, PCR amplification of exons 12-14 and sequence analysis, blood or bone marrow, report of JAK2 mutation not detected or detected.

Seventeen proprietary laboratory analysis (PLA) codes have been established. Proprietary Laboratory Analysis (PLA) codes are a new addition to the CPT code set approved by the AMA CPT Editorial Panel. They are alpha-numeric CPT codes with a corresponding descriptor for labs or manufacturers that want to more specifically identify their test. Tests with PLA codes must be performed on human specimens and must be requested by the clinical laboratory or the manufacturer that offers the test.

This subsection includes advanced diagnostic laboratory tests (ADLTs) and clinical diagnostic laboratory tests (CDLTs), as defined under the Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA) of 2014. These analysis may include a range of medical laboratory tests including, but not limited to, multianalyte assays with algorithmic analyses (MAAA) and genomic sequencing procedures (GSP). The descriptor nomenclature follows, where possible, existing code conventions.

When a PLA code is available to report a given proprietary laboratory service, that PLA code takes precedence. The service should not be reported with any other CPT code(s) and other CPT code(s) should not be used to report services that may be reported with that specific PLA code. These codes encompass all analytical services required for the analysis (eg, cell lysis, nucleic acid stabilization,



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extraction, digestion, amplification, hybridization and detection). For molecular analyses, additional procedures that are required prior to cell lysis (eg, microdissection [codes 88380 and 88381] may be reported separately.

Codes in this subsection are released on a quarterly basis to expedite dissemination for reporting. PLA codes will be published electronically on the AMA CPT website ([www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/cpt-pla-codes](http://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/cpt-pla-codes)), distributed via CPT data files on a quarterly basis, and, at a minimum, made available in print annually in the CPT codebook.

In order to report a PLA code, the analysis performed must fulfill the code descriptor and must be the test represented by the proprietary name listed in the document published to the AMA CPT website.

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) 2018*, and *CPT 2018 Changes-An Insider's View*.