

Digital Pathology Codes – 2024 Update

The AMA has released details on 30 new category III digital pathology CPT® codes that will go live on January 1st, 2024. These codes represent additional clinical staff work and service requirements associated with digitizing glass microscope slides for primary diagnosis. Clients who are preparing the digitized slide images should be billing the add-on charge; typically, this will be associated with the TC component. However, some charges (such as, peripheral blood smear review, CPT 85060) do not have separate TC/PC component modifiers - in these cases whoever prepares the digitized slide images or provides the digitization procedure may report the applicable add-on Category III code.

The new additions for 2024 include cytology, consultations, FNAs, and more. Some carriers do pay on these charges even though Category III charges typically carry no fee.

Add-on codes are used in addition to a primary charge - The unit of service for each Category III add-on code is one-to-one with the primary CPT.

Cat III - Digital Pathology add-on CPT codes - 2023

Primary CPT	Add-on Charge	Description
88302	+0751T	Digitization of glass microscope slides for level II, surgical pathology, gross and microscopic examination (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88304	+0752T	... for level III, surgical pathology, gross and microscopic examination (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88305	+0753T	... for level IV, surgical pathology, gross and microscopic examination (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88307	+0754T	... for level V, surgical pathology, gross and microscopic examination (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88309	+0755T	... for level VI, surgical pathology, gross and microscopic examination (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88312	+0756T	... for special stain, including interpretation and report, group I, for microorganisms (eg, acid fast, methenamine silver) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88313	+0757T	... for special stain, including interpretation and report, group II, all other (eg, iron, trichrome), except stain for microorganisms, stains for enzyme constituents, or immunocytochemistry and immunohistochemistry (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88314	+0758T	... for special stain, including interpretation and report, histochemical stain on frozen tissue block (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88319	+0759T	... for special stain, including interpretation and report, group III, for enzyme constituents (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88342	+0760T	... for immunohistochemistry or immunocytochemistry, per specimen, initial single antibody stain procedure (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88341	+0761T	... for immunohistochemistry or immunocytochemistry, per specimen, each additional single antibody stain procedure (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88344	+0762T	... for immunohistochemistry or immunocytochemistry, per specimen, each multiplex antibody stain procedure (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88360	+0763T	... for morphometric analysis, tumor immunohistochemistry (eg, Her-2/ neu, estrogen receptor/progesterone receptor), quantitative or semiquantitative, per specimen, each single antibody stain procedure, manual (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)



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Cat III - Digital Pathology add-on CPT codes – 2024

Primary CPT (TC only)	Add-on Charge	Description
88104	+0827T	Digitization of glass microscope slides for cytopathology, fluids, washings, or brushings, except cervical or vaginal; smears with interpretation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88106	+0828T	simple filter method with interpretation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88108	+0829T	Digitization of glass microscope slides for cytopathology, concentration technique, smears, and interpretation (eg, Saccomanno technique) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88112	+0830T	Digitization of glass microscope slides for cytopathology, selective-cellular enhancement technique with interpretation (eg, liquid-based slide preparation method), except cervical or vaginal (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88141	+0831T	Digitization of glass microscope slides for cytopathology, cervical or vaginal (any reporting system), requiring interpretation by physician (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88160	+0832T	Digitization of glass microscope slides for cytopathology, smears, any other source; screening and interpretation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88161	+0833T	preparation, screening and interpretation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88162	+0834T	extended study involving over 5 slides and/or multiple stains (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88172	+0835T	Digitization of glass microscope slides for cytopathology, evaluation of fine needle aspirate; immediate cytohistologic study to determine adequacy for diagnosis, first evaluation episode, each site (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88177	+0836T	immediate cytohistologic study to determine adequacy for diagnosis, each separate additional evaluation episode, same site (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88173	+0837T	interpretation and report (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88321	+0838T	Digitization of glass microscope slides for consultation and report on referred slides prepared elsewhere (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88323	+0839T	Digitization of glass microscope slides for consultation and report on referred material requiring preparation of slides (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88325	+0840T	Digitization of glass microscope slides for consultation, comprehensive, with review of records and specimens, with report on referred material (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88331	+0841T	Digitization of glass microscope slides for pathology consultation during surgery; first tissue block, with frozen section(s), single specimen (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)



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88332	+0842T	each additional tissue block with frozen section(s) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88333	+0843T	cytologic examination (eg, touch preparation, squash preparation), initial site (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88334	+0844T	cytologic examination (eg, touch preparation, squash preparation), each additional site (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88346	+0845T	Digitization of glass microscope slides for immunofluorescence, per specimen; initial single antibody stain procedure (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88350	+0846T	each additional single antibody stain procedure (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88363	+0847T	Digitization of glass microscope slides for examination and selection of retrieved archival (ie, previously diagnosed) tissue(s) for molecular analysis (eg, KRAS mutational analysis) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88365	+0848T	Digitization of glass microscope slides for in situ hybridization (eg, FISH), per specimen; initial single probe stain procedure (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88364	+0849T	each additional single probe stain procedure (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88366	+0850T	each multiplex probe stain procedure (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88368	+0851T	Digitization of glass microscope slides for morphometric analysis, in situ hybridization (quantitative or semiquantitative), manual, per specimen; initial single probe stain procedure (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88369	+0852T	each additional single probe stain procedure (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88377	+0853T	each multiplex probe stain procedure (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
85060	+0854T	Digitization of glass microscope slides for blood smear, peripheral, interpretation by physician with written report (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
85097	+0855T	Digitization of glass microscope slides for bone marrow, smear interpretation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
88348	+0856T	Digitization of glass microscope slides for electron microscopy, diagnostic (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)

*Code 88361 is not included as digital pathology preparation is intrinsically included in the code descriptor: Morphometric analysis, tumor immunohistochemistry (eg, Her-2/neu, estrogen receptor/progesterone receptor), quantitative or semiquantitative, per specimen, each single antibody stain procedure; using computer-assisted technology.

The team at APS will continue to monitor and communicate updates as they apply to pathology billing. Please contact your Practice Manager should you have any questions.