PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY
Pathology & Laboratory Format
(80048-89356)

- Organ or Disease Panels
- Drug Testing
- Therapeutic Drug Assays
- Evocation/Suppression Testing
- Consultation (Clinical Pathology)
- Urinalysis
- Chemistry

- Hematology and Coagulation
- Immunology
- Transfusion Medicine
- Microbiology Infectious Agent Detection
- Anatomic Pathology
- Cytopathology
- Cytogenetic Studies
- Surgical Pathology
- Transcutaneous Procedures
- Reproductive Medicine Procedures
The services in the Pathology & Laboratory section include laboratory tests only. The collection of the specimen is coded separately from the analysis of the test.

Example: If a patient had a technician in a clinic laboratory withdraw blood by means of a venipuncture of the arm, and the blood sample was then analyzed in the laboratory, you would code 36415 for the venipuncture in addition to a code to report the test performed on the blood.
Pathology & Laboratory Subsection
Organ or Disease Oriented Panels
80047-80076

- Code in subsection are grouped according to the usual laboratory work ordered by a physician for the diagnosis of or screening for various diseases or conditions.

Examples
- Basic metabolic panel - 80048
- General health panel - 80050
- Electrolyte panel - 80051
Rules of Panels

- All tests must have been conducted
- Do not use -52, Reduced Service
- Additional tests, over those in panel, reported separately
- If all tests in the panel are not done:
  - List each test separately
  - Do not use panel code
Pathology & Laboratory Subsection
Organ or Disease Oriented Panels
80047-80076
PERFORMANCE EXERCISE

- Hepatic function panel code.
  - 80076

- Lipid panel
  - 80061
Drug Testing (80100-80103)

- Laboratory Drug Test is done to Identify **presence** or **absence** of drug.

- Testing that determines the presence or absence of a drug is **qualitative**.

- When the presence of a drug is detected in the qualitative test, a confirmation test is usually performed by using a second testing method.

- Code **80102** is used to describe this confirmation test.
Drug Testing (80100-80103)

- Code from the **Therapeutic Drug Assay & Chemistry** subsection are used to further identify the exact amount of the drug that is present (quantitative)

- **EXAMPLE:** A patient who has been on a medication for a long time might need to undergo testing to determine whether the drug level is therapeutic.
Drug Testing

- **Chromatography** procedure in which multiple drugs identified:
  - Some machines identify all drugs present in one procedure
  - Others require two procedures or more to identify two or more drugs
Drug Testing

- Code the number of procedures, not the number of drugs tested:

  **Examples**

  - Two procedures to identify three drugs = 80100 × 2
  - One procedure to identify three drugs = 80100
Drug Testing

- Does not identify amount of drug present
  - Only presence or absence (qualitative)

- Report presence & amount (quantitative)
  - Therapeutic Drug Assays (80150-80299)
  - Chemistry (82000-84999)
Therapeutic Drug Assays (80150-80299)

- Material examined can be from any source
- Drugs listed by generic names

**Example:** amitriptyline (generic name for brand name Elavil)

- PDR is a must for coding drug testing
Therapeutic Drug Assays (80150-80299)

PERFORMANCE EXERCISE

- Confirmation of cocaine (qualitative)
  - 80102

- Identify the amount of digoxin in the blood (quantitative)
  - 80162
Evocation/Suppression Testing
(80400-80440)

- Measures stimulating (evocative) or suppressing agents

- Codes report only TC (Technical Component) of service
Evocation/Suppression Testing (80400-80440)

- Additional services to be reported
  - Supplies and/or drugs used in testing *(99070 or HCPCS code)*

- Physician-administered agent
  - Infusion or Injection code *(90780 and 90781)*

- E/M for physician monitoring of testing
Consultation (Clinical Pathology) 
(80500-80502)

- There are **two codes** under this subsection reserved for *clinical pathology consultation*.

- These consultations are based on whether the consultation is **limited** or **comprehensive**.
  - **Limited**: Done **without** the pathologist review of the patient’s medical record
  - **Comprehensive**: Done **with** review of medical record as part of the consultation service.
More Consultation Codes

- **Pathology Consultations** during surgery are provided to examine tissue removed from a patient during a surgical procedure.

- If the pathologist did **not** use a microscope to examine the tissue, report code **88329**.

- If a microscope was used to examine the tissue, report **88331** or **88332**, depending on the **number of samples** that were examined.
Pathology Terminology

- **A Specimen:** Sample of tissue of a suspect area
- **A Block:** Frozen piece of specimen
- **A Section:** Slice of frozen block

A pathologist prepares a specimen by cutting it into blocks and taking sections from the blocks.

- The number of sections taken depends on the judgment of the pathologist as to the number of areas of the specimen that need to be examined.
- The frozen section is placed on a slide or held by other means that allow the pathologist to view the tissue under a microscope.
Pathology Terminology

- Each specimen may be reported separately, but each slide from that specimen may not.

**Example:** Pathologist consults during surgical procedure

- Examines 1 block = 88331
- Examines 2nd section of same block = 88332
Urinalysis (81000-81099)

- Non-specific Tests on Urine
  - **Method** of test:
    - **Examples**: Tablet, reagent, or dipstick
  - **Reason** for test:
    - **Example**: Pregnancy
- **Constituents** being tested:
  - **Examples**: Bilirubin, glucose
Urinalysis

- **Equipment** used
  - Automated or nonautomated
- **Number** of tests performed
Specific tests on any bodily substances

- Urine
- Blood
- Breath
- Feces
- Sputum
Chemistry

- Codes used mostly for qualitative (presence) screenings only

- Four codes report quantitative (amount) screenings (80100-80103)
Chemistry

- Samples from different sources reported separately

  **Examples:** Blood, feces

- Samples taken different times of day reported separately
Urinalysis & Chemistry (80100-84999)

PERFORMANCE EXERCISE

- An automated urinalysis without microscopy.
  - 81003

- Uric acid, blood
  - 84550
Hematology & Coagulation (85002-85999)

- Laboratory procedures on blood
  
  **Examples**
  
  - Complete blood count *(CBC)*
  - White blood cell count *(WBC)*

- Codes divided based on:
  - Blood draw
  - Test being conducted
Hematology & Coagulation (85002-85999)

PERFORMANCE EXERCISE

- Blood count by automated hemogram (TBC, WBC, Hgb, Hct, and platelet count)

  85027

- Automated RBC

  85041
Immunology (86000-86849)

- Deal with identifying immune system conditions caused by antibodies & antigens
  
  **Example:** Hepatitis C antibody screening

- **PERFORMANCE EXERCISE**
  
  - ANA (*antinuclear antibody*) titer

86039
Transfusion Medicine (86850-86999)

- Blood Bank Codes
- Tests performed on blood or blood products
- Does NOT identify supply of blood, but
  - Collection
  - Processing
  - Type

- PERFORMANCE EXERCISE
- Irradiation of blood product, 3 units

86945 x3
Microbiology (87001-87999)

- Study of Microorganisms
  - Identification of organism
  - Sensitivities of organism to antibiotics

- Many code descriptions are similar to those in Immunology (86000-86849)
  - The difference is the technique used
Microbiology (87001-87999)
PERFORMANCE EXERCISE

- Quantification of *HIV-1, herpes, and Candida species.*

1. 87536 – HIV-1, quantification
2. 87530 – Herpes simplex
3. 87482 - Candida species

- Bacterial culture of urine, quantitative with colony count.

87086
### Anatomic Pathology (88000-88099)

- Postmortem Examinations
  - Autopsies
- Reports only physician service
- Codes divided on **extent of exam**

**Example:**
- **With** or **without** central nervous system
Cytopathology (88104-88199)

- Identifies cellular changes
- Common laboratory procedures

**Example:** Pap smear

- Codes divided on
  - Type of procedure
  - Technique used
Cytogenetic Studies (88230-88299)

- Branch of genetics concerned with cellular abnormalities & pathologic conditions

- **Cytogenetic Studies** include tests performed for genetic and chromosomal studies.
Surgical Pathology (88300-88399)

- Evaluation of specimens to determine pathology of disease processes.
- All tissue removed during procedures undergoes pathologic evaluation
Surgical Pathology

- This subsection contains codes that are divided into **six levels** based on the specimen examined and the level of work required by the pathologist.

- **Level I** – code **88300** identify specimens that normally **do not** need to be viewed under a microscope for pathologic diagnosis.

- **Level II** – code **88302** deals with tissues that are usually considered **normal tissue** and **have been removed**, not because of the presence of disease or malignancy, but for reasons such as *“fallopian tubes for the sterilization”*. 
Surgical Pathology

- **Level III** - code 88304 is assigned for specimen with a low neoplastic probability of disease or malignancy.

- **Level IV** – code 88305 carries a higher probability of malignancy or decision making for disease pathology.

- **Level V** - code 88307 classifies more complex pathology evaluation.

- **Level VI** - code 88309 includes examination of neoplastic tissue or very involved specimens.
Surgical Pathology (88300-88399)
PERFORMANCE EXERCISE

- The specimen is a uterus, tubes, and ovarian. The procedures was an abdominal hysterectomy for ovarian cancer.

  88309

- The specimen is the prostate. The procedure was transurethral resection of the prostate.

  88305
Types of Pathologic Examination

- **Microscopic:** With microscope

- **Gross:** Without microscope
  - **88300,** Only gross exam code
  - Others gross & microscopic
Not Included in Codes 88300-88309

- Any special services necessary during specimen examination:

**Example:** Special Stains

- Additional services reported separately (88311-88399)