

Beyond Denials: Lab Coding and Reimbursement for Molecular Diagnostics (MDx)

Safedin (Sajo) H. Beqaj, PhD, HCLD(ABB)

DCL Medical Laboratories

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Reimbursement in MDx

- Reimbursement for molecular diagnostics depends on
 1. Current procedural terminology (CPT) code to identify the test
 2. The evidence in the medical literature to support a particular technology platform or a biomarker's clinical validity
 3. Establishment of payment rates or fees
 4. The type of insurance that a patient carries

CPT Codes

- CPT codes describe medical procedure, services and supplies
- All CPT codes are five digit codes
- CPT codes are revised and updated annually by the AMA, and the revision become effective each January 1st
- Molecular CPT codes
 - Molecular CPT codes belong in Pathology/Laboratory Section

Current Procedural Terminology (CPT)

- CPT coding in Molecular Diagnostics
 - CPT coding for infectious disease testing
 - CPT coding for genetic testing
 - CPT coding for molecular oncology testing
- CPT coding for FISH

CPT codes for infectious disease

- Detection method
 - Direct probe (CT/GC, MBT)
 - ✓ Single detection, multiplexing (Affirm VP3)
 - Amplified probe
 - ✓ Single detection, multiplexing (HSV1/2, RVP, MBT)
- Quantitative (viral load, HCV, HIV)
- Genotyping (HIV, HCV, HBV, HPV)
- Phenotyping (HIV, HCV)

Detection Method/Qualitative

- Direct probe (CT, MBT) Pace, Probetech
 - Single detection (Pace, Probetech), in this case only one CPT code is used 87490 and reimbursement based on Medicare is \$28
 - Multiplexing (CT/GC, Affirm VP3), here we would use CPT 87490 and 87590 and reimbursement would be \$ 28 X2.
- Amplified probe
 - Single detection (CT, GBS, MRSA, Enterovirus), CPT code used would be 874991 and reimbursement would be \$ 49
 - multiplexing (CT/GC, RVP, MBT, Influence A&B), CPT code used would be 87491 and 87591 and reimbursement would be \$49X2

Detection Method/Qualitative

- Quantitative (viral load, HCV, HIV),
 - HCV, 87522 (~\$59)
 - HIV, 87536 is higher and it about \$119.
- Genotyping (HIV, HCV, HBV, HPV),
 - 87901 and reimbursement is ~\$360
- Phenotyping (HIV, HCV) and drug resistance
 - 87903 for phenotyping, ~\$682
 - 87904, \$24 for each drug.

Oncology and Genetics

- CPT coding is based on a technology or work description
- Thus, CPT codes are designed to describe the steps involved in procedure, isolation, amplification, detection and interpretation
- 21 codes in the 83890-83914 describe distinct procedural steps

Genetic testing FV Lieden (Roche)

CPT Modifier Description

- 83891-3A Isolation or extraction (\$5.60)
- 83898-3A Amplification of NA, each (\$23.42)
- 83896-3A X2 Nucleic acid probe, each (\$5.60)
- 83903-3A Mutation scanning (23.42)
- 83912-3A Interpretation and report (5.60)

Total _____ **(\$69.72)**

Genetic testing FV Lieden (TWT)

CPT Modifier Description

- 83891-3A Isolation or extraction (\$5.60)
- 83892-3A Enzymatic Digestion (\$5.60)
- 83898-3A Amplification of NA, each (\$23.42)
- 83896-3A X3 Nucleic acid probe, each (\$5.60)
- 83903-3A Mutation scanning (\$23.42)
- 83908-3A Signal Amplification (\$23.42)
- 83912-3A Interpretation and report (5.60)

Total _____ **(\$103.86)**

Cystic Fibrosis

- CPT Modifier Description
- 83891-8A Isolation or extraction (\$5.60)
- 83892-8A Enzymatic Digestion (\$5.60)
- 83900-8A Amplif of NA, first two (\$46.84)
- 83901-8A X17 Amplification of NA, each (\$23.42)
- 83896-8A X40 Nucleic acid probe, each (\$5.60)
- 83903-8A Mutation scanning (\$23.42)
- 83908-8A Signal Amplification (\$23.42)
- 83912-8A Interpretation and report (5.60)

Total _____ **(\$732.48)**

Molecular Oncology (BCR/ABL)

CPT Modifier Description

- 83891-3A Isolation or extraction (\$5.60)
- 83913 RNA stabilization (\$18.66)
- 83902 Reverse transcriptase (\$19.83)
- 83898-3A X2 Amplification of NA, each (\$23.42)
- 83896-3A X4 Nucleic acid probe, each (\$5.60)
- 83912-3A Interpretation and report (5.60)

Total _____ **(\$118.93)**

FISH CPT codes

- Molecular cytogenetic codes
 - 88271-88275 (molecular cytogenetics DNA probe each, cell analysis 3-5, 10-30 cells, interphase 25-99 and 100-300 cells)
- FISH studies
- 88365-88368 (each probe manual or auto)
- 88291 Interpretation and reporting

- Her2neu
 - 88368/88367 X2 FISH manual/morphometric analysis
 - 88291 Interpretation and report

Microarrays CPT codes

- CPT codes 88384 - 88386 when more than 10 probes are utilized
- 83890 - 83892 to report extraction
- 83898 - 83901 to report amplification
- There are no CPT codes for microarray assays employing more than 500 molecular probes