

Electrophoretic Determination of Hemoglobin Fractions

Parenthetical notes explaining how to report hemoglobin fractions ,including A1C, and hemoglobin A1C alone have been added to the 2015 CPT.

The following explanatory note applies to CPT 83036, hemoglobin, glycosylated (A1C):

“For glycosylated (A1C hemoglobin analysis, by electrophoresis or chromatography, in the setting of an identified hemoglobin variant, see 83020, 83021)”

In other words, when electrophoresis is used to measure known or suspected hemoglobin variants as well as A1C, CPT 83020, Hemoglobin fractionation and quantitation; electrophoresis (e.g., A2, S, C, and/or F), should be reported.

Whenever it is appropriate to report 83020, interpretation by a consulting physician (reported using 83020-26) may also be appropriate as described under Medicare Coding and Reimbursement Rules, Please see: [Coding for Physician Interpretation of Hemoglobin Electrophoresis and Hemoglobin Chromatography](#)

The following explanatory note explains how to use CPT 83020, Hemoglobin fractionation and quantitation; electrophoresis (e.g., A2, S, C, and/or F):

“For glycosylated (A1C hemoglobin analysis, by electrophoresis or chromatography, in the absence of an identified hemoglobin variant, use 83036”

When hemoglobin A1C alone is ordered and determined, whether by electrophoresis, chromatography, or immunoassay, CPT 83036, Hemoglobin; glycosylated (A1C), should be reported.

Laboratories offering both A1C only as well as hemoglobin A1C and variants by electrophoresis should list both options along with the CPT codes used to bill the tests on their test requisitions, for example:

<i>Test Number</i>	<i>Test Name</i>
1050	Glycosylated hemoglobin (A1C) (83036)
1051	Glycosylated hemoglobin (A1C) and variants (83020)

CPT code 83020 would be reported when Test number 1051 (Glycosylated hemoglobin (A1C) and variants) is ordered and performed, regardless of whether variants were detected.

If electrophoresis is used to perform test number 1050 (Glycosylated hemoglobin (A1C), 83036 should be reported since only A1C is ordered. However, if variants are detected, 83020 may be reported.