
**Coding for Physician Interpretation of Serum Protein Electrophoresis (SPE) and Immunofixation
Electrophoresis (IFE) Tests**

The following CPT codes are used to report SPE and IFE testing:

86334 Immunofixation electrophoresis; serum

86335 Immunofixation electrophoresis; other fluids with concentration (eg, urine, CSF)

84165 Protein; electrophoretic fractionation and quantitation, serum

84165 Protein; electrophoretic fractionation and quantitation, other fluids with concentration (eg, urine, CSF)

The above codes may be interpreted by a consultant physician when certain conditions are met.

The MUEs for CPT code 86334 (Immunofixation electrophoresis) is changed from 1 to 2 units of service to allow multiple electrophoresis or immunofixation tests to be performed on the same specimen when monitoring multiple myeloma patients.

CMS/ Medicare anticipate that 2 units of service for CPT code 86334 may be reported in patients with multiple myeloma with an Ig G Kappa being treated with daratumumab who undergo a DIRA test (Daratumumab Immunofixation Reflex Assay, otherwise known commercially as Hydrashift 2/4 daratumumab from Sebia).

The physician interpretation is reported by adding a -26 modifier to the respective CPT code and is paid by Medicare as a physician service. To be covered by Medicare, physician interpretations must be:

- 1.) requested by the patient's attending physician,
- 2.) result in a written narrative report included in the patient's medical record and
- 3.) require the exercise of medical judgment by the consultant physician.

The above policy is based on the attending physician ordering a test, the test being sent to a hospital laboratory or independent laboratory for performance, and an interpretation then provided by the laboratory's pathologist back to the attending or treating physician.

This policy is not intended for an attending or treating physician who orders a test, interprets the test and uses the interpretation in the treatment of his/her patient.

The physician interpretation is considered a consultation, thus, the ordering physician is prohibited from performing the interpretation since then he would essentially be consulting with him/herself.