

Coding for Physician Interpretation of Hemoglobin Electrophoresis and Hemoglobin Chromatography

The following CPT codes are used to report hemoglobin fractionation and quantitation by electrophoresis and chromatography:

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| 83020 | Hemoglobin fractionation and quantitation; electrophoresis (eg, A2, S, C, and/or F) |
| 83021 | Hemoglobin fractionation and quantitation; chromatography (eg, A2, S, C, and/or F) |

CPT code 83020 may be interpreted by a consultant physician when certain conditions are met. The physician interpretation is reported by adding a -26 modifier to 83020 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/she would essentially be consulting with him/herself.

CPT code 83021 is not subject to physician interpretation and cannot be billed using a -26 modifier.