Physician (Pathologist) Interpretation of Electrophoretic Assays

Clinical Laboratory Consultations

Medicare will reimburse for clinical consultations if the consultation:

1. is requested by the patient's attending physician;
2. relates to a test result that lies outside the clinically normal or expected range relative to the condition of the patient;
3. results in a written report included in the patient's medical record; AND
4. requires the exercise of medical judgment by the consultant physician.

If the information provided could ordinarily be furnished by a non-physician laboratory specialist, the service does not qualify as a consultation and is not covered by Medicare, even if provided by a physician.

The following CPT codes are used to report and bill clinical laboratory consultations:

- 80500 Clinical pathology consultation; limited, without review of patient's history and medical records.
- 80502 Clinical pathology consultation; comprehensive, for a complex diagnostic problem, with review of patient's history and medical records.

Consultations on Tests with Normal Results

Medicare allows clinical consultations for the following tests even when the test results are not outside the normal or expected range. Medicare considers these tests to be of sufficient complexity that they may require consultation even when results are within normal ranges. The consultation for these tests is billed by adding the professional component modifier, -26, to the respective CPT code.

- 83020-26 HEMOGLOBIN FRACTIONATION AND QUANTITATION, electrophoresis
- 84165-26 PROTEIN, electrophoretic fractionation and quantification
- 84166-26 PROTEIN, electrophoretic fractionation and quantification – other fluids requiring concentration
- 84181-26 WESTERN BLOT, with interpretation and report, blood or other body fluid
- 84182-26 WESTERN BLOT, with interpretation and report, blood or other body fluid, immunological probe for band identification, each
- 86320-26 IMMUNOELECTROPHORESIS, serum
- 86325-26 IMMUNOELECTROPHORESIS, other fluids
- 86327-26 IMMUNOELECTROPHORESIS, crossed, 2-dimensional assay
- 86334-26 IMMUNOFIXATION ELECTROPHORESIS – physician interpretation
- 86335-26 IMMUNOFIXATION ELECTROPHORESIS, other fluids with concentration
- 88371-26 PROTEIN ANALYSIS OF TISSUE BY WESTERN BLOT, with interpretation and report
- 88372-26 PROTEIN ANALYSIS OF TISSUE BY WESTERN BLOT, with interpretation and report, immunological probe for band identification, each