



Specimen Collection Codes

Medicare and most other payers allow a separate specimen collection charge for drawing or collecting specimens by venipuncture or catheterization whether or not the specimen is processed on site or referred to another laboratory for analysis. Only one collection fee is allowed for each patient encounter, even though multiple specimens may be collected.

The following CPT codes are used to report the routine collection of blood.

36415	COLLECTION OF VENOUS BLOOD BY VENIPUNCTURE
36416	COLLECTION OF CAPILLARY BLOOD SPECIMEN (eg, finger, heel, ear stick)

CPT code 36415 code is used to report routine venipunctures (and for Medicare only, the collection of urine by catheter) Medicare pays a flat rate of \$3.00 for HCPCS code 36415 and does not cover CPT capillary blood collection (CPT code 36416).

24-hour urine specimen collection is reported using the following CPT code:

81050	VOLUME MEASUREMENT for timed collection, each
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This code should be used whenever a volumetric measure of urine is required to report a test result.