

IMMEDIATE CHANGE HOT LINE: Effective August 3, 2015

MEDICARE COVERAGE OF LABORATORY TESTING

Please remember when ordering laboratory tests that are billed to Medicare/Medicaid or other federally funded programs, the following requirements apply:

1. Only tests that are medically necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of the patient should be ordered. Medicare does not pay for screening tests except for certain specifically approved procedures and may not pay for non-FDA approved tests or those tests considered experimental.
2. If there is reason to believe that Medicare will not pay for a test, the patient should be informed. The patient should then sign an Advance Beneficiary Notice (ABN) to indicate that he or she is responsible for the cost of the test if Medicare denies payment.
3. The ordering physician must provide an ICD-9 diagnosis code or narrative description, if required by the fiscal intermediary or carrier.
4. Organ- or disease-related panels should be billed only when all components of the panel are medically necessary.
5. Both ARUP- and client-customized panels should be billed to Medicare only when every component of the customized panel is medically necessary.
6. Medicare National Limitation Amounts for CPT codes are available through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) or its intermediaries. Medicaid reimbursement will be equal to or less than the amount of Medicare reimbursement.

The CPT Code(s) for test(s) profiled in this bulletin are for informational purposes only. The codes reflect our interpretation of CPT coding requirements, based upon AMA guidelines published annually. CPT codes are provided only as guidance to assist you in billing. ARUP strongly recommends that clients reconfirm CPT code information with their local intermediary or carrier. CPT coding is the sole responsibility of the billing party.

The regulations described above are only guidelines. Additional procedures may be required by your fiscal intermediary or carrier.

Delete	0091265	Gold Quantitative, Serum or Plasma	GOLD SP
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Effective October 26, 2015.

HOT LINE NOTE: Delete this test.

0020482	Oxalate, Urine		UOXAL
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*This test performed at ARUP Laboratories.
Specimen requirements clarified to improve patient care.

Specimen Required: Specimen Preparation: Thoroughly mix entire collection (24-hour or random) in one container. Freeze specimens immediately after aliquoting. Do not exceed 4 mL in tubes.
Preserved: Transfer 4 mL aliquot to an ARUP Transport Tube with 20 mg Sulfamic Acid (ARUP supply #48098). Available online through eSupply using ARUP Connect™ or contact ARUP Client Services at (800) 522-2787. Mix well. (Min: 1.5 mL)
Unpreserved: If the collection tube with Sulfamic Acid is not available, transport a 4 mL unadjusted aliquot of urine. (Min: 1.5 mL)
Storage/Transport Temperature: CRITICAL FROZEN. Separate specimens must be submitted when multiple tests are ordered.
Remarks: Record total volume and collection time interval on transport tube and test request form. This information is required for test interpretation.
Stability: After aliquoting complete: Ambient: Unacceptable; Refrigerated: Unacceptable; Frozen: 1 month