

Payment policy for outpatient laboratory services

This notice is an update to the Wellpoint policy for outpatient laboratory services.

Effective April 1, 2023, all outpatient laboratory tests must be sent to a participating freestanding laboratory center with the following exceptions:

- Lab services rendered in an emergency room setting.
- Lab services rendered in conjunction with ambulatory surgery services: RV0360-RV0369, RV0481, RV0490-RV0499, RV0720-RV0729, RV0750-RV0759 and RV0790-RV0799.
- Lab services rendered in conjunction with 23 observation services: RV0760-RV0769.
- STAT labs identified by CPT® code in *Table 1* below.

Table 1

Code	Description
80048	Basic metabolic panel (calcium, total) This panel must include the following: Calcium, total (82310) Carbon dioxide (bicarbonate) (82374) Chloride (82435) creatinine (82565) G
80051	Electrolyte panel
80055	Obstetric panel: This panel must include the following: Blood count, complete (CBC), automated and automated differential.
80069	Renal function panel This panel must include the following: Albumin (82040) Calcium, total (82310) Carbon dioxide (bicar
80074	Acute hepatitis panel
80156	Assay of carbamazepine; Total
80162	Assay of digoxin
80184	Assay of phenobarbital
80185	Assay of phenytoin; Total
80195	Sirolimus
80198	Assay of theophylline
80305	Drug test(s), presumptive, any number of drug classes, any number of devices or procedures; capable of being read by direct optical observation only (such as utilizing immunoassay).
81000	Urinalysis, dip stick/tablet reagent; Non-automated w/microscopy
81001	Urinalysis, dip stick/tablet reagent; automated w/o microscopy

Code	Description
81005	Urinalysis; qualitative/semiquantitative, except immunoassays
81007	Urinalysis; bacteriuria screen, except by culture/dipstick
81015	Urinalysis; microscopic only
81025	Urine pregnancy test, visual color comparison methods
82120	Amines, vaginal fluid, qualitative
82150	Amylase
82247	Bilirubin; Total
82248	Bilirubin; Direct
82271	Blood, occult, by peroxidase activity (eg, guaiac), qualitative; other sources.
82272	Blood, occult, by peroxidase activity (such as guaiac), qualitative, feces, 1 to 3 simultaneous determinations
82310	Calcium; Total
82374	Carbon dioxide (Bicarbonate)
82435	Chloride; blood
82550	Creatine kinase (CK), (CPK); Total
82565	Creatinine; blood
82800	Gases, blood, pH only
82803	Gases, blood, pH, PCO ₂ , Po ₂ , CO ₂ , HCO ₃ , (w/calculated O ₂ sat)
82810	Gases, blood, O ₂ sat only, direct measure, not pulse oximetry
82947	Glucose; quantitative, blood (except reagent strip)
82962	Glucose, blood, glucose monitoring device(s) cleared by FDA specifically for home use
83615	Lactate Dehydrogenase (LD), (LDH)
83655	Lead
83735	Magnesium
83861	Microfluidic analysis utilizing an integrated collection and analysis device, tear osmolarity
84030	Phenylalanine (PKU), blood
84075	Phosphatase, alkaline
84100	Phosphorus inorganic (phosphate)

Code	Description
84132	Potassium; serum, plasma or whole blood
84295	Sodium; serum, plasma or whole blood
84450	Transferase; aspartate amino (Ast) (Sgot)
84460	Transferase; Alanine Amino (Alt) (Sgpt)
84520	Urea nitrogen; quantitative
84545	Urea nitrogen, clearance
84550	Uric Acid; Blood
84703	Gonadotropin, chorionic (HCG); qualitative
84703	Gonadotropin, chorionic (HCG); qualitative
85014	Blood count; hematocrit
85018	Blood count; hemoglobin
85025	Blood Count; complete CBC, automated (HGB, HCT, RBC, WBC, and platelet) and automated differential WBC.
85027	Blood count; complete CBC, automated (HGB, HCT, RBC, WBC, and platelet)
85610	Prothrombin time
85730	Thromboplastin time, Partial (PTT); plasma/whole blood
85732	Thromboplastin time, partial (PTT); substitution, plasma fractions, each
86308	Heterophile antibodies; screening
86318	Immunoassay for infectious agent antibody(ies), qualitative or semiquantitative, single step method (such as reagent strip).
86580	Skin test; tuberculosis, intradermal
86703	Antibody; HIV-1 and HIV-2, single result
86901	Blood typing; Rh factor (D)
87220	Tissue exam by koh slide of samples from skin/hair/nails, fungi/ectoparasite ova/mites
87420	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique, (such as enzyme)
87804	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay with direct optical
87807	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay with direct optical
87809	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay with direct optical (such as visual) observation; adenovirus.

Code	Description
87880	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay with direct optical.
88172	Cytopathology, evaluation of fine needle aspirate; immediate cytohistologic study to determine adequacy for diagnosis, first evaluation episode, each site.
88173	Cytopathology, eval fine needle aspirate; interpretation and report.
89300	Semen analysis; presence &/or motility, sperm w/Huhner test (post coital).
G2023	Specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), any specimen source.
G2024	Specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), from an individual in a skilled nursing facility or by a
Q0111	Wet Mounts/ w preparations
Q0112	Potassium hydroxide preps

What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication or need assistance with any other item, contact your local Provider Relationship Management associate or call Provider Services at **833-707-0868**.