Highmark Coding Tips

Pathology and Laboratory Changes for 2024

August 2024

Revised Codes

Coding for Intellectual Disability

Starting Jan. 1, 2024, codes 81171, 81172, 81243, 81244, 81403, 81404, 81405, 81406, and 81407 were revised to replace the wording “mental retardation” with “intellectual disability”.

Procedure Code	Description
81171	AFF2 (ALF transcription elongation factor 2 [FMR2]) (e.g., fragile X intellectual disability 2 [FRAXE]) gene analysis; evaluation to detect abnormal (e.g,, expanded) alleles.
81172	AFF2 (ALF transcription elongation factor 2 [FMR2]) (e.g., fragile X intellectual disability 2 [FRAXE]) gene analysis; characterization of alleles (e.g., expanded size and methylation status).
81243	FMR1 (fragile X messenger ribonucleoprotein 1) (e.g., fragile X syndrome, X-linked intellectual disability [XLID]) gene analysis; evaluation to detect abnormal (e.g., expanded) alleles.
81244	FMR1 (fragile X messenger ribonucleoprotein 1) (e.g., fragile X syndrome, X-linked intellectual disability [XLID]) gene analysis; characterization of alleles (e.g., expanded size and promoter methylation status).
81403	Molecular pathology procedure, Level 4 (e.g., analysis of single exon by DNA sequence analysis, analysis of >10 amplicons using multiplex PCR in 2 or more independent reactions, mutation scanning or duplication/deletion variants of 2-5 exons).
81404	Molecular pathology procedure, Level 5 (e.g., analysis of 2-5 exons by DNA sequence analysis, mutation scanning or duplication/deletion variants of 6-10 exons, or characterization of a dynamic mutation disorder/triplet repeat by Southern blot analysis).
81405	Molecular pathology procedure, Level 6 (e.g., analysis of 6-10 exons by DNA sequence analysis, mutation scanning or duplication/deletion variants of 11-25 exons, regionally targeted cytogenomic array analysis).
81406	Molecular pathology procedure, Level 7 (e.g., analysis of 11-25 exons by DNA sequence analysis, mutation scanning or duplication/deletion variants of 26-50 exons).
81407	Molecular pathology procedure, Level 8 (e.g., analysis of 26-50 exons by DNA sequence analysis, mutation scanning or duplication/deletion variants of >50 exons, sequence analysis of multiple genes on one platform).

New Codes

Coding for Genomic Sequence Analysis Panel Codes

For solid organ neoplasms, six new panel codes have been added.

Procedure Code	Description	Additional Information
81457	Interrogation for sequence variants; DNA analysis, microsatellite instability.	The service is performed to evaluate the patient tumor specimen for DNA sequence variants known to impact diagnosis and treatment of solid cancers. This test also evaluates microsatellite instability (MSI), which is an indicator of how likely the cells are to mutate and may guide treatment options.
81458	Interrogation for sequence variants; DNA analysis, copy number variants, and microsatellite instability.	The service is performed to evaluate the patient tumor specimen for DNA sequence variants and copy number variants known to impact diagnosis and treatment of solid organ cancers. The test also evaluates microsatellite instability (MSI), which is an indicator of how likely the cells are to mutate and may guide treatment options.
81459	Interrogation for sequence variants; DNA analysis or combined DNA and RNA analysis, copy number variants, microsatellite instability, tumor mutation burden, and rearrangements.	The service is performed to evaluate the patient tumor specimen for DNA and RNA sequence variants, copy number variants, and rearrangements known to impact diagnosis and treatment of solid organ cancers. The test also evaluates other factors that may guide treatment options, such as microsatellite instability (MSI), which is an indicator of how likely the cells are to mutate, and tumor mutation burden (TMB), which is an indicator of the level of genetic mutations present in cancer cells.
81462	Cell-free nucleic acid (e.g., plasma) interrogation for sequence variants; DNA analysis or combined DNA and RNA analysis, copy number variants, and rearrangements.	The service is performed as a liquid biopsy using a plasma specimen to identify cell–free DNA (cfDNA) or DNA/RNA for a genomic sequence analysis panel. The test evaluates nucleic acid sequence variants, copy number variants, and rearrangements known to impact diagnosis and treatment of solid organ cancers.
81463	Cell-free nucleic acid (e.g., plasma) interrogation for sequence variants; DNA analysis, copy number variants, and microsatellite instability.	The service is performed as a liquid biopsy using a serum specimen to identify cell–free DNA (cfDNA) for a genomic sequence analysis panel to identify changes known to impact diagnosis and treatment of solid organ tumors. The test evaluates nucleic acid sequence variants, copy number variants, and microsatellite instability (MSI), which is an indicator of how likely the cells are to mutate.
81464	Cell-free nucleic acid (e.g., plasma) interrogation for sequence variants; DNA analysis or combined DNA and RNA analysis, copy number variants, microsatellite instability, tumor mutation burden, and rearrangements.	The service is performed as a liquid biopsy using a plasma specimen to identify cell–free DNA (cfDNA) or DNA/RNA for a genomic sequence analysis panel. The test evaluates nucleic acid sequence variants, copy number variants, and rearrangements relevant to solid organ neoplasms. The test also evaluates other factors that may guide treatment options, such as microsatellite instability (MSI), which is an indicator of how likely the cells are to mutate, and tumor mutation burden (TMB), which is an indicator of the level of genetic mutations present in cancer cells.

Coding for Multianalyte Assays with Algorithmic Analyses (MAAA)

The new code has been added for liver fibrosis and liver-related clinical events within five years.

Procedure Code	Description
81517	Liver disease, analysis of 3 biomarkers (hyaluronic acid [HA], procollagen III amino terminal peptide [PIIINP], tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinase 1 [TIMP-1]), using immunoassays, utilizing serum, prognostic algorithm reported as a risk score and risk of liver fibrosis and liver-related clinical events within five years.

Coding for Anti-Mullerian Hormone (AMH)

The new code enables the quantitative assessment of AMH levels in serum.

Procedure Code	Description	Additional Information
82166	Anti-mullerian hormone (AMH)	This code 82166 now describes the chemistry test for anti-mullerian hormone (AMH).

Coding for Acetylcholine Receptors (AChR)

Three new codes have been added for acetylcholine receptors (AChR).

Procedure Code	Description	Additional Information
86041	Acetylcholine receptor (AChR); binding antibody.	This code is for when the procedure includes the binding antibody.
86042	Acetylcholine receptor (AChR); blocking antibody.	This code is for when the procedure includes the blocking antibody.
86043	Acetylcholine receptor (AChR); modulating antibody.	This code is for when the procedure includes the modulating antibody.

Coding for Muscle-Specific Kinase (MuSK) Antibodies

Procedure Code	Description
86366	Muscle-specific kinase (MuSK) antibody.

Coding for Hepatitis D

Procedure Code	Description	Additional Information
87523	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); hepatitis D (delta), quantification, including reverse transcription, when performed.	This code quantifies the level of hepatitis D (delta) viral particles in the patient specimen, called viral load.

Coding for Orthopoxvirus (e.g., Monkeypox Virus, Cowpox Virus, Vaccinia Virus) Testing

Procedure Code	Description
87593	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); Orthopoxvirus (e.g., monkeypox virus, cowpox virus, vaccinia virus), amplified probe technique, each.

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