

Surgical Pathology

Any **UNLISTED** specimen should be assigned to the CPT code which most closely reflects the work involved when compared to other specimens assigned to that code.

The unit of service for CPT codes 88300 - 88309 is the *SPECIMEN*. A specimen is defined as tissue(s) that is/are submitted for individual and separate attention, requiring individual examination and pathologic diagnosis. Two or more such specimens from the same patient (eg, separately identified endoscopic biopsies, skin lesions, etc.) are each appropriately assigned an individual code reflective of its proper level of service.

Services 88300 - 88309 include accession, examination, and reporting. They do not include the services listed in CPT codes 88311 - 88365 and 88399, which are coded “in addition” when provided.

Service code 88300 is used for any specimen that in the opinion of the examining pathologist can be accurately diagnosed “without” microscopic examination. Service code 88302 is used when gross and microscopic examination is performed on a specimen to confirm identification and the absence of disease. Service codes 88304 - 88309 describe all other specimens requiring gross and microscopic examination, and represent additional “ascending” levels of physician work. Levels 88302 - 88309 are specifically defined by the assigned specimens below:

88300 Level I - Surgical pathology, gross examination only

88302 Level II - Surgical pathology, gross and microscopic examination

Appendix, Incidental	Nerve
Fallopian Tube, Sterilization	Skin, Plastic Repair
Fingers/Toes, Amputation, Traumatic	Sympathetic Ganglion
Foreskin, Newborn	Testis, Castration
Hernia Sac, Any location	Vaginal Mucosa, Incidental
Hydrocele Sac	Vas Deferens, Sterilization

88304 Level III - Surgical pathology, gross and microscopic examination

Abortion, Induced	Hematoma
Abscess	Hemorrhoids
Aneurysm - Arterial/Ventricular	Hydatid of Morgagni
Anus, Tag	Intervertebral Disc
Appendix, Other than Incidental	Joint, Loose Body
Artery, Atheromatous Plaque	Meniscus
Bartholin's Gland Cyst	Mucocele, Salivary
Bone Fragment(s), not Pathologic Fracture	Neuroma - Morton's/Traumatic
Bursa/Synovial Cyst	Pilonidal Cyst/Sinus
Carpal Tunnel Tissue	Polyps, Inflammatory - Nasal/Sinusoidal
Cartilage Shavings	Skin - Cyst/Tag/Debridement
Cholesteatoma	Soft Tissue Debridement
Colon, Colostomy Stoma	Soft Tissue, Lipoma
Conjunctiva - Biopsy/Pterygium	Spermatocoele
Cornea	Tendon/Tendon Sheath
Diverticulum - Esophagus/Small Bowel	Testicular Appendage
Dupuytren's Contracture Tissue	Thrombus or Embolus
Femoral Head, Other than Fracture	Tonsil and/or Adenoid
Fissure/Fistula	Varicocele
Foreskin, Other than Newborn	Vas Deferens, Other than Sterilization
Gallbladder	Vein, Varicosity
Ganglion Cyst	

88305 Level IV - Surgical pathology, gross and microscopic examination

Abortion - Spontaneous/Missed	Odontogenic/Dental Cyst
Artery, Biopsy	Omentum, Biopsy
Bone Exostosis	Ovary, Biopsy/Wedge Resection
Bone Marrow, Biopsy	Ovary, w/ or w/o Tube, Non-neoplastic
Brain, Meninges, Other than tumor	Parathyroid Gland
Breast, Biopsy, NOT Requiring Microscopic Evaluation of Surgical Margins	Peritoneum, Biopsy
Breast, Reduction Mammoplasty	Pituitary Tumor
Bronchus, Biopsy	Placenta, 1st or 2nd Trimester
Cell Block, Any Source	Pleura/Pericardium, Biopsy
Cervix, Biopsy	Polyp, Cervical/Endometrial
Colon, Biopsy	Polyp, Colorectal
Duodenum, Biopsy	Polyp, Stomach/Small Bowel
Endocervix, Curettings/Biopsy	Prostate, Needle Biopsy
Endometrium, Curettings/Biopsy	Prostate, TUR
Esophagus, Biopsy	Salivary Gland, Biopsy
Extremity, Amputation, Traumatic	Sinus, Paranasal Biopsy
Fallopian Tube, Biopsy	Skin, Not Cyst/Tag/Debrid/Plastic
Fallopian Tube, Ectopic Pregnancy	Small Intestine, Biopsy
Femoral Head, Fracture	Soft Tissue, Not Tumor/Mass/Lipoma
Fingers/Toes, Amputation, Non-Traumatic	Spleen
Gingiva/Oral Mucosa, Biopsy	Stomach, Biopsy
Heart Valve	Synovium
Joint, Resection	Testis, Not Tumor/Biopsy/Castration
Kidney, Biopsy	Thyroglossal Duct/Brachial Cleft Cyst
Larynx, Biopsy	Tongue, Biopsy
Leiomyoma(s), without Uterus	Tonsil, Biopsy
Lip, Biopsy/Wedge Resection	Trachea, Biopsy
Lung, Transbronchial Biopsy	Ureter, Biopsy
Lymph Node, Biopsy	Urethra, Biopsy
Muscle, Biopsy	Urinary Bladder, Biopsy
Nasal Mucosa, Biopsy	Uterus, w/ or w/o Tubes and Ovaries, for Prolapse
Nasopharynx/Oropharynx, Biopsy	Vagina, Biopsy
Nerve, Biopsy	Vulva/Labia Biopsy

88307 Level V - Surgical pathology, gross and microscopic examination

Adrenal, Resection	Myocardium, Biopsy
Bone, Biopsy/Curettings	Odontogenic Tumor
Bone Fragment(s), Pathologic Fracture	Ovary, w/ or w/o Tube, Neoplastic
Brain, Biopsy	Pancreas, Biopsy
Brain/Meninges, Tumor Resection	Placenta, Third Trimester
Breast, Excision of Lesion, Requiring Microscopic Evaluation of Surgical Margins	Prostate, Except Radical Resection
Breast, Mastectomy - Partial/Simple	Salivary Gland
Cervix, Conization	Sentinel Lymph Node
Colon, Segmental Resection - No Tumor	Small Intestine, Resection, Not Tumor
Extremity, Amputation, Non-Traumatic	Soft Tissue Mass, Not Lipoma, Biopsy
Eye, Enucleation	Stomach, Sub/Total Resection, Not Tumor
Kidney, Partial/Total Nephrectomy	Testis, Biopsy
Larynx, Partial/Total Resection	Thymus, Tumor
Liver, Biopsy - Needle/Wedge	Thyroid, Total/Lobe
Liver, Partial Resection	Ureter, Resection
Lung, Wedge Biopsy	Urinary Bladder, TUR
Lymph Nodes, Regional Resection	Uterus, w/ or w/o Tubes and Ovaries, Other Than Tumor/Prolapse
Mediastinum, Mass	

88309 Level VI - Surgical pathology, gross and microscopic examination

Bone Resection	Prostate, Radical Resection
Breast, Mastectomy, with Regional Lymph Nodes	Small Intestine, Resection for Tumor
Colon, Segment, Resection for Tumor	Soft Tissue Tumor, Extensive Resection
Colon, Total Resection	Stomach - Subtotal/Total Resection for Tumor
Esophagus, Partial/ Total Resection	Testis, Tumor
Extremity, Disarticulation	Tongue/Tonsil - Resection for Tumor
Fetus, with Dissection	Urinary Bladder, Partial/Total Resection
Larynx, Partial/Total Resection - with Regional Lymph Nodes	Uterus, w/ or w/o Tubes and Ovaries, Neoplastic
Lung, Total/Lobe/Segment Resection	Vulva, Total/Subtotal Resection
Pancreas, Total/Subtotal Resection	(For Fine-Needle Aspiration (FNA), preparation, and interpretation of smears, see 88170-88173)

Add-on (+) CPT Codes to the Above Service Codes:

Cytopathology

- 88104** Cytopathology, fluids, washings, or brushings, except cervical or vaginal; smears with interpretation
- 88106** Cytopathology, fluids, washings, or brushings, except cervical or vaginal; filter method only with interpretation
- 88107** Cytopathology, fluids, washings, or brushings, except cervical or vaginal; smears and filter preparation with interpretation
- 88108** Cytopathology, concentration technique, smears and interpretation (e.g., Saccomanno technique) (For interpretation of smear, use 88104; for cell block interpretation, use 88305.)
- 88125** Cytopathology, forensic (e.g., sperm)
- 88130** Sex chromatin identification; Barr bodies
- 88140** Sex chromatin identification; peripheral blood smear, polymorphonuclear drumsticks
- +88141** Cytopathology, cervical or vaginal (any reporting system), requiring interpretation by physician (List separately in addition to code for technical service.)
(Use **88141 in conjunction with codes 88142 - 88154, 88164 -88167**)
- 88142** Cytopathology, cervical or vaginal (any reporting system), collected in preservative fluid, automated thin layer preparation; manual screening under physician supervision
- 88143** Cytopathology, cervical or vaginal (any reporting system), collected in preservative fluid, automated thin layer preparation; with manual screening and rescreening under physician supervision
- 88144** Cytopathology, cervical or vaginal (any reporting system), collected in preservative fluid, automated thin layer preparation; with manual screening and computer-assisted rescreening under physician supervision
- 88145** Cytopathology, cervical or vaginal (any reporting system), collected in preservative fluid, automated thin layer preparation; with manual screening and computer-assisted rescreening using cell section and review under physician supervision
- 88147** Cytopathology smears, cervical or vaginal; screening by automated system under physician supervision
- 88148** Cytopathology smears, cervical or vaginal; screening by automated system with manual rescreening under physician supervision
- 88150** Cytopathology, slides, cervical or vaginal; manual screening under physician supervision
(To report use **88141**.)
- 88152** Cytopathology, slides, cervical or vaginal; with manual screening and computer-assisted rescreening under physician supervision
- 88153** Cytopathology, slides, cervical or vaginal; with manual screening and rescreening under physician supervision
- 88154** Cytopathology, slides, cervical or vaginal; with manual screening and computer-assisted rescreening using cell selection and review under physician supervision

Cytopathology (Cont.)

- +88155** Cytopathology, slides, cervical or vaginal, definitive hormonal evaluation (e.g., maturation index, karyopyknotic index, estrogenic index) (List separately in addition to code(s) for other technical and interpretation services.)
(Use **88155 in conjunction with 88142 - 88154, 88164 - 88167**)
- 88160** Cytopathology, smears, any other source; screening and interpretation
- 88161** Cytopathology, smears, any other source; preparation, screening and interpretation
- 88162** Cytopathology, smears, any other source; extended study involving over 5 slides and/or multiple stains
- 88164** Cytopathology, slides, cervical or vaginal (the Bethesda System); manual screening under physician supervision
- 88165** Cytopathology, slides, cervical or vaginal (the Bethesda System); with manual screening and rescreening under physician supervision
- 88166** Cytopathology, slides, cervical or vaginal (the Bethesda System); with manual screening and computer-assisted rescreening under physician supervision
- 88167** Cytopathology, slides, cervical or vaginal (the Bethesda System); with manual screening and computer-assisted rescreening using cell selection and review under physician supervision
- 88170** Fine-needle aspiration with or without preparation of smears; superficial tissue (e.g., thyroid, breast, prostate)
- 88171** Fine-needle aspiration with or without preparation of smears; deep tissue under radiologic guidance (e.g., lung, liver, pancreas, abdominal or retroperitoneal mass)
- 88172** Evaluation of fine-needle aspirate with or without preparation of smears; immediate cytohistologic study to determine adequacy of specimen(s)
- 88173** Evaluation of fine-needle aspirate with or without preparation of smears; interpretation and report
- 88180** Flow cytometry; each cell surface marker
- 88182** Flow cytometry; cell cycle or DNA analysis
(For tumor morphometry, DNA and ploidy analysis by imaging techniques use 88358.)
- 88199** Unlisted cytopathology procedure

Pathology

- +88311** Decalcification procedure (List separately in addition to code for surgical pathology examination.)
- +88312** Special stains (List separately in addition to code for surgical pathology examination); Group I for microorganisms (e.g., Gridley, acid-fast, methenamine silver), each
- +88313** Group II, all other (iron, trichrome), except immunohistochemistry stains, each
- +88314** Special stains (List separately in addition to code for surgical pathology examination); histochemical staining with frozen section(s)
- 88318** Determinative histochemistry to identify chemical components (e.g., copper, zinc)
- 88319** Determinative histochemistry of cytochemistry to identify enzyme constituents, each (e.g., NADH, Leder, myeloperoxidase, esterase, alkaline phosphatase)
- 88321** Consultation and report on referred slides prepared elsewhere
- 88323** Consultation and report on referred material requiring preparation of slides
- 88325** Consultation, comprehensive, with review of records and specimens, with report on referred material
- 88329** Pathology consultation during surgery
- 88331** Pathology consultation during surgery; first tissue block, with frozen section(s), single specimen
- 88332** Pathology consultation during surgery; each additional tissue block with frozen section(s)
- 88342** Immunohistochemistry, tissue study, each antibody
- 88346** Immunofluorescent study, each antibody; direct method
- 88347** Immunofluorescent study, each antibody; indirect method
- 88348** Electron microscopy; diagnostic
- 88349** Electron microscopy; scanning

Pathology (Cont.)

- 88355** Morphometric analysis; skeletal muscle
- 88356** Morphometric analysis; nerve
- 88358** Morphometric analysis; tumor
- 88362** Nerve teasing preparations
- 88365** Tissue *in-situ* hybridization, interpretation and report
- 88371** Protein analysis of tissue by Western blot, with interpretation and report
- 88372** Protein analysis of tissue by Western blot, with interpretation and report; immunological probe for band identification
- 88399** Unlisted surgical pathology procedure