


Education by the Experts 

An Introduction to CPT® Coding

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Objectives

- Define and describe CPT codes and how they are used
- Identify CPT codes commonly used in Pathology
- Describe CPT coding scenarios commonly encountered in Pathology

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Why is This Important?

- CPT serves as a standardized language in healthcare
- CPT is intimately involved in describing services and getting paid for them
- As the pathologist, you are ultimately responsible for assigning the codes that describe the services you perform

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Learning Map

- What is CPT?
- How are codes created, modified, or deleted?
- How is CPT linked to payment?
- How to code
- Explanation of common coding scenarios
- Resources

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What is CPT?

- Current Procedural Terminology
- System of codes and descriptors used to describe or report medical services (e.g. 88305 level IV –Surgical Pathology, gross and microscopic examination)
- Developed and owned by the American Medical Association
- Overseen by CPT Editorial Panel

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History of CPT

- 1966 CPT first published – then periodic updates
- 1983 CPT mandated for reporting Medicare part B services
- 1986 CPT mandated for reporting Medicaid services
- 2003 Implementation date for CPT to be used for all electronic transmissions of healthcare information as mandated by HIPAA

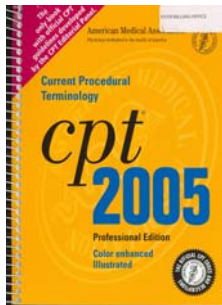
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Overview of CPT Codes

- CPT I Five digit code with definition – used to report service/procedure.
- CPT II Optional codes used to document and collect quality data – format four digits and a letter.
- CPT III Temporary code set used to track new technology – format four digits and a letter.

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Picture of CPT 2005 Book



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Overview of CPT	
Evaluation and Management	99201-99499
Anesthesiology	00100-01999, 99100-99140
Surgery	10021-69990
Radiology (including Nuclear Medicine and Diagnostic Ultrasound)	70010-79999
Pathology and Laboratory	80048-89356
Medicine (except Anesthesiology)	90281-99199, 99500-99602

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CPT for Pathology and Laboratory	
Organ or Disease Panels	80048-80076
Drug Testing	80100-80103
Therapeutic Drug Assays	80150-80299
Evocative/Suppression Testing	80400-80440
Consultations (CP)	80500-80502
Urinalysis	81000-81099
Chemistry	82000-84999
Molecular Diagnostics	83890-83912
Infectious Agent: Detection of Antibodies	86602-86804

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CPT for Pathology and Laboratory	
Microbiology	87001-87255
- Infectious Agent Detection	87260-87999
Anatomic Pathology	88000-88099
Cytopathology	88104-88199
Cytogenetic Studies	88230-88299
Surgical Pathology	88300-88399

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Modifiers	
-26	Professional Component
-TC	Technical Component
-59	Distinct Procedural Service
-91	Repeat Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Test

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- | Learning Map |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is CPT?• How are codes created, modified, or deleted?• How is CPT linked to payment?• How to code• Explanation of common coding scenarios• Resources |
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- | How are CPT Codes Added, Deleted, or Changed? |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submission of Coding Change Request Form identifying proposed change or addition• AMA staff review• CPT Advisory Committee• CPT Editorial Panel• Referred to AMA/Specialty RVS Update Committee (RUC) |
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How CPT Codes Are Linked to Payment

- Relative Value Units (RVUs)
- Medicare Part B RVU (global) = RVU (professional) + RVU (technical)
 - RVU (professional) = RVU (work) + RVU (practice expenses) + RVU (malpractice)
 - RVU (technical) = RVU (direct costs) + RVU (malpractice)

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Medicare Part B Payment

\$\$\$ Payment = RVU X Conversion Factor

2005 Conversion Factor = \$ 37.8975

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National Average Medicare Physician Fee Schedule

- 88305 PC = [RVU (Work) + RVU (Practice Expense) + RVU (Malpractice)] X CF
= [0.75 + 0.33 + 0.03] X \$37.8975
= \$42.07
- 88305 TC = [RVU (Direct costs) + RVU (malpractice)] X CF
= [1.58 + 0.04] X \$37.8975
= \$61.39
- 88305 Global = \$42.07 + \$61.39 = \$103.46

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Coding Basics

- Unit of service is specimen
- Must be separately identifiable
- Beware of bundling/unbundling

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Surgical Pathology I

88300	Level I – Surgical Pathology, gross examination only
88302	Level II – Surgical Pathology, gross and microscopic examination
88304	Level III – Surgical Pathology, gross and microscopic examination
88305	Level IV – Surgical Pathology, gross and microscopic examination
88307	Level V – Surgical Pathology, gross and microscopic examination
88309	Level VI – Surgical Pathology, gross and microscopic examination

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Surgical Pathology II

For Common Code 88305 –

- Abortion – Spontaneous/Missed
- Artery, Biopsy
- Bone Marrow, Biopsy
- Bone Exostosis
- Brain/Meninges, Other than for Tumor Resection
- Breast Biopsy, Not Requiring Microscopic Evaluation of Surgical Margins
- Breast, Reduction Mammoplasty
- Bronchus, Biopsy
- Cell Block, Any Source
- Cervix, Biopsy

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Surgical Pathology II (Continued)

For Common Code 88305 (continued) –

- Colon, Biopsy
- Duodenum, Biopsy
- Endocervix, Curettings/Biopsy
- Endometrium, Curettings/Biopsy
- Esophagus, Biopsy
- Extremity, Amputation, Traumatic
- Fallopian Tube, Biopsy
- Fallopian Tube, Ectopic Pregnancy
- + 48 others

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Skin Specimens

88300	Surgical Pathology, gross examination only
88302	Skin, plastic repair
88304	Skin, cyst/tag/debridement
88305	Skin, other than cyst/tag/debridement/plastic repair

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Breast Specimens	
88305	Breast, biopsy, not requiring microscopic evaluation of surgical margins
88305	Breast, reduction mammoplasty
88307	Breast, excision of lesion, requiring microscopic evaluation of surgical margins
88307	Breast, mastectomy – partial/simple
88309	Breast, mastectomy – with regional lymph nodes

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Gyn Specimens I	
88305	Endometrium, curettings/biopsy
88305	Polyp, cervical/endometrial
88305	Ovary, with/without tube, non-neoplastic
88305	Ovary, biopsy/wedge resection

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Gyn Specimens II	
88305	Uterus, with/without tubes and ovaries, for prolapse
88307	Cervix, conization
88307	Ovary, with/without tube, neoplastic
88307	Uterus, with/without tubes and ovaries, other than neoplastic/prolapse
88309	Uterus, with/without tubes and ovaries, neoplastic

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Decalcification and Special Stains

88311	Decalcification procedure (list separately in addition to code for surgical pathology examination)
88312	Special stains (List separately in addition to code for primary service); group I for microorganisms (e.g. Gridley acid fast, methanamine silver), each
88313	Group II, all other (e.g. iron trichrome), except immunocytochemistry and immunoperoxidase stains, each

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Immunohistochemistry

88342	Immunochemistry (including tissue immunoperoxidase), each antibody
88360	Morphometric analysis, tumor immunohistochemistry (e.g. Her-2/neu, estrogen receptor/progesterone receptor), quantitative or semiquantitative, each antibody; manual
88361	Using computer assisted technology

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Intraoperative Codes

88329	Pathology consultation during surgery
88331	First tissue block, with frozen section(s), single specimen
88332	Each additional tissue block with frozen section(s)

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Consultation on Outside Material

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

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Non-Gynecology Cytology I

88104	Cytopathology, fluids, washings or brushings, except cervical or vaginal; smears with interpretation
88108	Cytopathology, concentration technique, smears and interpretation (e.g. Saccomanno technique)
88112	Cytopathology, selective cellular enhancement technique with interpretation (e.g. liquid based slide preparation method), except cervical or vaginal
80305	Cell block, any source

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Non-Gynecology Cytology II (FNA)

10021	Fine needle aspiration, without imaging guidance
10022	Fine needle aspiration, with imaging guidance
88172	Cytopathology, evaluation of fine needle aspirate; immediate cytohistologic study to determine adequacy of specimen(s)
88173	Interpretation and report

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Flow Cytometry	
88184	Flow cytometry, cell surface, cytoplasmic, or nuclear marker, technical component only; first marker
88185	Each additional marker (List separately in addition to code for first marker)
88187	Flow cytometry, interpretation; 2-8 markers
88188	9-15 markers
88189	16 or more markers
88182	Flow cytometry; cell cycle or DNA analysis

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- | Resources | |
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| • CAP | |
| – www.cap.org | CPT coding resource center |
| – “Your CPT Questions” in CAP Today | |
| – Statline | |
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- | Resources | |
|--|--|
| • CPT Coding Tutorial | |
| – Visit the CAP Web site at www.cap.org | |
| – Log in with your User ID and password | |
| – Click on Education | |
| – Select View Course Catalog | |
| – Navigate to the CPT Coding Tutorial section | |
| – Select the activity in which you would like to enroll | |
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Resources

- AMA
 - www.ama-assn.org CPT Codes and resources link
 - www.amapress.org CPT Manuals from AMA

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Questions?

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