

Local Coverage Article: Special Stains and Immunohistochemistry (IHC) Indications for Gastric Pathology (A55718)

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Contractor Information

CONTRACTOR NAME	CONTRACT TYPE	CONTRACT NUMBER	JURISDICTION	STATE(S)
Palmetto GBA	A and B MAC	10111 - MAC A	J - J	Alabama
Palmetto GBA	A and B MAC	10112 - MAC B	J - J	Alabama
Palmetto GBA	A and B MAC	10211 - MAC A	J - J	Georgia
Palmetto GBA	A and B MAC	10212 - MAC B	J - J	Georgia
Palmetto GBA	A and B MAC	10311 - MAC A	J - J	Tennessee
Palmetto GBA	A and B MAC	10312 - MAC B	J - J	Tennessee
Palmetto GBA	A and B and HHH MAC	11201 - MAC A	J - M	South Carolina
Palmetto GBA	A and B and HHH MAC	11202 - MAC B	J - M	South Carolina
Palmetto GBA	A and B and HHH MAC	11301 - MAC A	J - M	Virginia
Palmetto GBA	A and B and HHH MAC	11302 - MAC B	J - M	Virginia
Palmetto GBA	A and B and HHH MAC	11401 - MAC A	J - M	West Virginia
Palmetto GBA	A and B and HHH MAC	11402 - MAC B	J - M	West Virginia
Palmetto GBA	A and B and HHH MAC	11501 - MAC A	J - M	North Carolina
Palmetto GBA	A and B and HHH MAC	11502 - MAC B	J - M	North Carolina

Article Information

General Information

Article ID

A55718

Original Effective Date

09/07/2017

Article Title

Special Stains and Immunohistochemistry (IHC)
Indications for Gastric Pathology

Revision Effective Date

01/09/2020

Article Type

Article

Revision Ending Date

N/A

**AMA CPT / ADA CDT / AHA NUBC Copyright
Statement****Retirement Date**

N/A

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Article Guidance

Article Text:

Only the pathologist may determine the medical necessity of a special stain. The vast majority of conditions of the stomach on biopsy can be diagnosed by the use of the routine hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) stain alone. There is potential for either over-utilization or under-utilization of these ancillary special stains. In most cases it is NOT reasonable or necessary to perform "special stains" such as alcian blue (AB) - periodic acid schiff (PAS) to determine if clinically meaningful intestinal metaplasia is present. In addition, it is not usually reasonable or necessary to perform special stains or immunostains (IHC) to determine the presence of *H. pylori*.

Ordering special stains or immunostains prior to review of the H&E stain is not reasonable and necessary. If stains in addition to the H&E stain are needed, specific documentation to justify the need for the special stain is required in the pathology report. Although uncommon, cases that may require "special stains" or an IHC include but are not limited to the following:

- Detection of H. pylori in an appropriate milieu when organisms are not seen on H&E stained slides (Batts K, et al reference)
- Evaluating an atrophic gastritis for evidence of autoimmune etiology
- Characterizing a carcinoma, lymphoma, or sarcoma
- Defining a GIST tumor

Scientific data demonstrates that the combined number of gastric biopsies requiring special stains is equal to or less than 20% of biopsies received and examined in a practice, laboratory, or hospital. Palmetto GBA agrees with the published data. To check utilization, Palmetto encourages providers to perform a self-audit on the number of separate gastric biopsies (reported with CPT® code 88305) as compared to ancillary stains (reported with CPT® codes 88312, 88313, and 88342). The ancillary stain code group should be less than 20% of the total gastric biopsies (88305 codes) submitted. Providers that exceed the 20% criteria may be subject to additional action.

References

Wright CL, Kelly JK. The use of routine special stains for upper gastrointestinal biopsies. *Am J Surg Pathol.* 2006;30:357-61.

Hartman DJ, Owens SR. Are routine ancillary stains required to diagnose Helicobacter infection in gastric biopsy specimens? *Am J Clin Pathol.* 2012;137:255-60.

Smith SB, et al. Helicobacter pylori. To stain or not to stain? *Am J Clin Pathol.* 2012;137:733-738.

Batts K, et al. Appropriate use of special stains for identifying Helicobacter pylori: Recommendations from the Rodger C. Haggitt Gastrointestinal Pathology Society. *Am J Surg Pathol.* 2013;37(11):e12-22.

Coding Information

CPT/HCPCS Codes

Group 1 Paragraph:

N/A

Group 1 Codes:

CODE	DESCRIPTION
88305	LEVEL IV - SURGICAL PATHOLOGY, GROSS AND MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION 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 COLON, BIOPSY DUODENUM, BIOPSY ENDOCERVIX, CURETTINGS/BIOPSY ENDOMETRIUM, CURETTINGS/BIOPSY ESOPHAGUS, BIOPSY EXTREMITY, AMPUTATION, TRAUMATIC FALLOPIAN TUBE, BIOPSY FALLOPIAN TUBE, ECTOPIC PREGNANCY FEMORAL HEAD, FRACTURE FINGERS/TOES, AMPUTATION, NON-TRAUMATIC GINGIVA/ORAL MUCOSA, BIOPSY HEART VALVE JOINT,

CODE	DESCRIPTION
	RESECTION KIDNEY, BIOPSY LARYNX, BIOPSY LEIOMYOMA(S), UTERINE MYOMECTOMY - WITHOUT UTERUS LIP, BIOPSY/WEDGE RESECTION LUNG, TRANSBRONCHIAL BIOPSY LYMPH NODE, BIOPSY MUSCLE, BIOPSY NASAL MUCOSA, BIOPSY NASOPHARYNX/OROPHARYNX, BIOPSY NERVE, BIOPSY ODONTOGENIC/DENTAL CYST OMENTUM, BIOPSY OVARY WITH OR WITHOUT TUBE, NON-NEOPLASTIC OVARY, BIOPSY/WEDGE RESECTION PARATHYROID GLAND PERITONEUM, BIOPSY PITUITARY TUMOR PLACENTA, OTHER THAN THIRD TRIMESTER PLEURA/PERICARDIUM - BIOPSY/TISSUE POLYP, CERVICAL/ENDOMETRIAL POLYP, COLORECTAL POLYP, STOMACH/SMALL INTESTINE PROSTATE, NEEDLE BIOPSY PROSTATE, TUR SALIVARY GLAND, BIOPSY SINUS, PARANASAL BIOPSY SKIN, OTHER THAN CYST/TAG/DEBRIDEMENT/PLASTIC REPAIR SMALL INTESTINE, BIOPSY SOFT TISSUE, OTHER THAN TUMOR/MASS/LIPOMA/DEBRIDEMENT SPLEEN STOMACH, BIOPSY SYNOVIUM TESTIS, OTHER THAN TUMOR/BIOPSY/CASTRATION THYROGLOSSAL DUCT/BRACHIAL CLEFT CYST TONGUE, BIOPSY TONSIL, BIOPSY TRACHEA, BIOPSY URETER, BIOPSY URETHRA, BIOPSY URINARY BLADDER, BIOPSY UTERUS, WITH OR WITHOUT TUBES AND OVARIES, FOR PROLAPSE VAGINA, BIOPSY VULVA/LABIA, BIOPSY
88312	SPECIAL STAIN INCLUDING INTERPRETATION AND REPORT; GROUP I FOR MICROORGANISMS (EG, ACID FAST, METHENAMINE SILVER)
88313	SPECIAL STAIN INCLUDING INTERPRETATION AND REPORT; GROUP II, ALL OTHER (EG, IRON, TRICHROME), EXCEPT STAIN FOR MICROORGANISMS, STAINS FOR ENZYME CONSTITUENTS, OR IMMUNOCYTOCHEMISTRY AND IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY
88341	IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY OR IMMUNOCYTOCHEMISTRY, PER SPECIMEN; EACH ADDITIONAL SINGLE ANTIBODY STAIN PROCEDURE (LIST SEPARATELY IN ADDITION TO CODE FOR PRIMARY PROCEDURE)
88342	IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY OR IMMUNOCYTOCHEMISTRY, PER SPECIMEN; INITIAL SINGLE ANTIBODY STAIN PROCEDURE

ICD-10 Codes that Support Medical Necessity

N/A

ICD-10 Codes that DO NOT Support Medical Necessity

N/A

Additional ICD-10 Information

N/A

Bill Type Codes:

Contractors may specify Bill Types to help providers identify those Bill Types typically used to report this service. Absence of a Bill Type does not guarantee that the policy does not apply to that Bill Type. Complete absence of all Bill Types indicates that coverage is not influenced by Bill Type and the policy should be assumed to apply equally to all claims.

N/A

Revenue Codes:

Contractors may specify Revenue Codes to help providers identify those Revenue Codes typically used to report this service. In most instances Revenue Codes are purely advisory. Unless specified in the policy, services reported under other Revenue Codes are equally subject to this coverage determination. Complete absence of all Revenue Codes indicates that coverage is not influenced by Revenue Code and the policy should be assumed to apply equally to all Revenue Codes.

N/A

Revision History Information

REVISION HISTORY DATE	REVISION HISTORY NUMBER	REVISION HISTORY EXPLANATION
01/09/2020	R3	Under CPT/HCPCS Codes Group 1: Codes added 88341. CPT® was inserted throughout the article where applicable. Formatting, punctuation and typographical errors were corrected throughout the article.
02/26/2018	R2	The Jurisdiction "J" Part B Contracts for Alabama (10112), Georgia (10212) and Tennessee (10312) are now being serviced by Palmetto GBA. The notice period for this article begins on 12/14/17 and ends on 02/25/18. Effective 02/26/18, these three contract numbers are being added to this article. No coverage, coding or other substantive changes (beyond the addition of the 3 Part B contract numbers) have been completed in this revision.
01/29/2018	R1	The Jurisdiction "J" Part A Contracts for Alabama (10111), Georgia (10211) and Tennessee (10311) are now being serviced by Palmetto GBA. The notice period for this article begins on 12/14/17 and ends on 01/28/18. Effective 01/29/18, these three contract numbers are being added to this article. No coverage, coding or other substantive changes (beyond the addition of the 3 Part A contract numbers) have been completed in this revision.

Associated Documents

Related Local Coverage Document(s)

LCD(s)

L35922 - Lab: Special Histochemical Stains and Immunohistochemical Stains

Related National Coverage Document(s)

N/A

Statutory Requirements URL(s)

N/A

Rules and Regulations URL(s)

N/A

CMS Manual Explanations URL(s)

N/A

Other URL(s)

N/A

Public Version(s)

Updated on 12/09/2019 with effective dates 01/09/2020 - N/A

Updated on 12/14/2017 with effective dates 02/26/2018 - N/A

Some older versions have been archived. Please visit the MCD Archive Site to retrieve them.

Keywords

N/A