

Obsolete and Unreliable Tests and Procedures

Policy Definition

Obsolete and unreliable tests and procedures are those that are outdated and are no longer standard of care. Many of these tests and procedures have been replaced by more advanced procedures.

Harvard Pilgrim Does *Not* Reimburse

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care is consistent with the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) which has determined that the tests and procedures noted below are obsolete or unreliable. These tests and procedures have been replaced by more advanced procedures, or they are not recommended by professional specialty societies.

Provider Billing Guidelines and Documentation

Coding²

Obsolete and Unreliable Tests and Procedures

CPT	Description
30210	Displacement therapy (Proetz type)
38530	Biopsy or excision of lymph node(s); open, internal mammary node(s)
43754	Gastric intubation and aspiration, diagnostic; single specimen (e.g., acid analysis)
43755	Gastric intubation and aspiration, diagnostic; collection of multiple fractional specimens with gastric stimulation, single or double lumen tube (gastric secretory study) (e.g., histamine, insulin, pentagastrin, calcium, secretin), includes drug administration
51020	Cystotomy or cystostomy; with fulguration and/or insertion of radioactive material
51030	Cystotomy or cystostomy; with cryosurgical destruction of intravesical lesion
51605	Injection procedure and placement of chain for contrast and/or chain urethrocytography
52250	Cystourethroscopy with insertion of radioactive substance, with or without biopsy or fulguration
55705	Biopsy, prostate; incisional, any approach
55720	Prostatotomy, external drainage of prostatic abscess, any approach; simple
55725	Prostatotomy, external drainage of prostatic abscess, any approach; complicated
82024	Adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH)
82150	Amylase blood isoenzymes, electrophoretic
82495	Chromium
82930	Gastric acid analysis, includes pH if performed, each specimen
82965	Glutamate dehydrogenase
85345	Coagulation time; Lee and White
85347	Coagulation time; activated
85348	Coagulation time; other methods
P2028	Cephalin flocculation, blood
P2029	Congo red, blood
P2033	Thymol turbidity, blood
P2038	Mucoprotein, blood (seromuroid) (medical necessity procedure)

PUBLICATION HISTORY

10/15/10	new policy—effective 01/01/11
01/01/12	removed First Seniority Freedom information from header
12/15/12	annual review and bi annual benchmark; added applicable procedure codes effective 01/01/13; removed deactivated procedure codes
06/15/13	clarified obsolete amylase, blood isoenzymes, electrophoretic
11/15/13	annual review; administrative edits; minor edits for clarity
11/15/14	annual review; no changes
11/15/15	annual review; no changes

(continued)

PAYMENT POLICIES

Obsolete and Unreliable Tests and Procedures (*cont.*)

11/15/16	annual review; no changes
11/15/17	annual review; no changes
02/01/18	annual coding update
11/01/18	annual review; no changes
11/01/19	annual review; no changes
11/02/20	annual review; administrative edit

¹This policy applies to the products of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and its affiliates—Harvard Pilgrim Health Care of Connecticut, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care of New England, and HPHC Insurance Company—for services performed by contracted providers. Payment is based on member benefits and eligibility, medical necessity review, where applicable, and provider contractual agreement. Payment for covered services rendered by contracted providers will be reimbursed at the lesser of charges or the contracted rate. (Does not apply to inpatient per diem, DRG, or case rates.) HPHC reserves the right to amend a payment policy at its discretion. CPT and HCPCS codes are updated annually. Always use the most recent CPT and HCPCS coding guidelines.

²The table may not include all provider claim codes related to Obsolete and Unreliable Tests and Procedures services.