## Contractor Information

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<th>CONTRACTOR NAME</th>
<th>CONTRACT TYPE</th>
<th>CONTRACT NUMBER</th>
<th>JURISDICTION</th>
<th>STATE(S)</th>
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<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>01111 - MAC A</td>
<td>J - E</td>
<td>California - Entire State</td>
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## Article Information

### General Information
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. The MolDX Contractor agrees with the published data. To check utilization, Noridian 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


Coding Information

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

CPT/HCPCS Codes

Group 1 Paragraph:
N/A

Group 1 Codes:

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<td>88305</td>
<td>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,</td>
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<tr>
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<td>DESCRIPTION</td>
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<td>ECTOPIC PREGNANCY FEMORAL HEAD, FRACTURE FINGERS/TOES, AMPUTATION, NON-TRAUMATIC GINGIVA/ORAL MUCOSA, BIOPSY HEART VALVE JOINT, 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/SAlM 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</td>
<td>88312</td>
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<td>88313</td>
<td>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</td>
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<td>88342</td>
<td>IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY OR IMMUNOCYTOCHEMISTRY, PER SPECIMEN; INITIAL SINGLE ANTIBODY STAIN PROCEDURE</td>
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**ICD-10 Codes that are Covered**

N/A

**ICD-10 Codes that are Not Covered**

N/A

**Revision History Information**

Created on 03/19/2019. Page 5 of 6
Associated Documents

Related Local Coverage Document(s)
LCD(s)
L36351 - 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 03/06/2019 with effective dates 01/01/2018 - N/A
Updated on 11/09/2017 with effective dates 01/01/2018 - N/A

Keywords

- Histochemical
- Immunohistochemical
- MolDX
- 88305
- 88312
- 88313
- 88342