

Local Coverage Article: Lab: Special Stains and Immunohistochemistry (IHC) Indications for Gastric Pathology (A55803)

Links in PDF documents are not guaranteed to work. To follow a web link, please use the MCD Website.

Contractor Information

CONTRACTOR NAME	CONTRACT TYPE	CONTRACT NUMBER	JURISDICTION	STATE(S)
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	02101 - MAC A	J - F	Alaska
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	02102 - MAC B	J - F	Alaska
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	02201 - MAC A	J - F	Idaho
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	02202 - MAC B	J - F	Idaho
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	02301 - MAC A	J - F	Oregon
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	02302 - MAC B	J - F	Oregon
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	02401 - MAC A	J - F	Washington
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	02402 - MAC B	J - F	Washington
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	03101 - MAC A	J - F	Arizona
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	03102 - MAC B	J - F	Arizona
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	03201 - MAC A	J - F	Montana
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	03202 - MAC B	J - F	Montana
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	03301 - MAC A	J - F	North Dakota
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	03302 - MAC B	J - F	North Dakota
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	03401 - MAC A	J - F	South Dakota
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	03402 - MAC B	J - F	South Dakota
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	03501 - MAC A	J - F	Utah
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	03502 - MAC B	J - F	Utah
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	03601 - MAC A	J - F	Wyoming
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	03602 - MAC B	J - F	Wyoming

Article Information

General Information

Article ID

A55803

Original Article Effective Date

01/01/2018

Article Title

Lab: Special Stains and Immunohistochemistry (IHC)
Indications for Gastric Pathology

Revision Effective Date

01/01/2018

AMA CPT / ADA CDT / AHA NUBC Copyright Statement

CPT codes, descriptions and other data only are copyright 2018 American Medical Association. All Rights Reserved. Applicable FARS/HHSARS apply.

Revision Ending Date

N/A

Retirement Date

N/A

Current Dental Terminology © 2018 American Dental Association. All rights reserved.

Copyright © 2018, the American Hospital Association, Chicago, Illinois. Reproduced with permission. No portion of the AHA copyrighted materials contained within this publication may be copied without the express written consent of the AHA. AHA copyrighted materials including the UB-04 codes and descriptions may not be removed, copied, or utilized within any software, product, service, solution or derivative work without the written consent of the AHA. If an entity wishes to utilize any AHA materials, please contact the AHA at 312-893-6816. Making copies or utilizing the content of the UB-04 Manual, including the codes and/or descriptions, for internal purposes, resale and/or to be used in any product or publication; creating any modified or derivative work of the UB-04 Manual and/or codes and descriptions; and/or making any commercial use of UB-04 Manual or any portion thereof, including the codes and/or descriptions, is only authorized with an express license from the American Hospital Association. To license the electronic data file of UB-04 Data Specifications, contact Tim Carlson at (312) 893-6816 or Laryssa Marshall at (312) 893-6814. You may also contact us at ub04@healthforum.com.

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. The MoIDX 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

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 Path* 2012 137:255-60.

Smith SB, et al. *Helicobacter pylori*. To stain or not to stain? *Am J Clin Path* 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

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:

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, RESECTION KIDNEY, BIOPSY LARYNX, BIOPSY LEIOMYOMA(S), UTERINE MYOMECTIONY - WITHOUT UTERUS LIP, BIOPSY/WEDGE RESECTION LUNG,

CODE	DESCRIPTION
	TRANSTRONCHIAL 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
88342	IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY OR IMMUNOCYTOCHEMISTRY, PER SPECIMEN; INITIAL SINGLE ANTIBODY STAIN PROCEDURE

ICD-10 Codes that are Covered

N/A

ICD-10 Codes that are Not Covered

N/A

Revision History Information

REVISION HISTORY DATE	REVISION HISTORY NUMBER	REVISION HISTORY EXPLANATION
01/01/2018	R1	Added "Lab" to the title.

Associated Documents

Related Local Coverage Document(s)

LCD(s)

L36353 - 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
- MoIDX
- 88305
- 88312
- 88313
- 88342
- lab