

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 21.1
TITLE: **PATHOLOGY AND SURGICAL PATHOLOGY**

AUTHORITY: 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4 (c.)(2)(x)

I. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

80048-87620, 87650-87999, 88104-89325, 89330, 96902

II. DESCRIPTION

A. Pathology is the medical science and specialty practice associated with all aspects of diseases but with special reference to the essential nature, the causes, and development of abnormal conditions, as well as the structural and functional changes that result from the disease process.

B. Surgical pathology services include accession, examination, and reporting for a specimen, which is defined as tissue that is submitted for individual and separate attention, requiring individual examination and pathologic diagnosis. These codes require gross and microscopic examination.

III. POLICY

A. Medically necessary pathology and laboratory services are covered.

B. Surgical pathology services that are billed by a certified pathologist are covered.

C. If the operating surgeon bills for surgical pathology procedures, ClaimCheck will deny as incidental, since the definitive (microscopic) examination will be performed later, after fixation of the specimen, by the certified pathologist who will bill separately.

IV. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. Dermatologists are qualified to perform surgical pathology services. If a dermatologist performs his/her own pathology in addition to the surgical procedure(s), payment can be allowed for both the surgical procedure as well as the surgical pathology procedure.

B. Hair analysis testing when necessary to determine lead poisoning (CPT 96902).

V. EXCLUSIONS

A. Autopsy and postmortem (CPT 88000-88099).

B. Sperm penetration assay (hamster oocyte penetration test or the zona-free hamster egg test, CPT 89329).

C. In-vitro chemoresistance and chemosensitivity assays (stem cell assay, differential staining cytotoxicity assay and thymidine incorporation assay).

D. Hair analysis to identify mineral deficiencies from the chemical composition of hair.

E. Human papillomavirus testing in the management of cervical neoplasia.

END OF POLICY