



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

NOV 10 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Policy on Department of Defense Standardization of Lab Test Definition Files

The Laboratory Joint Working Group, chartered by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, has reviewed the current policy for utilizing standardized coding systems in the definition files for laboratory tests within the Composite Health Care System (CHCS). The laboratory consultants for the Army, Navy, and Air Force agree that the American Medical Association (AMA) Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) panel code and Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC®) coding systems should be made the standard across the Department of Defense (DoD) CHCS system. This change will eliminate the current difficulty with lab information transfer due to the use of different file definitions at each military treatment facility. It will also decrease the potential for errors in billing third party payers for lab test panels due to the lack of an approved coding system. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) prohibits the billing of individual tests using non-standard codes if there is an approved AMA Current Procedural Terminology CPT panel code.

It is the policy of the Department of Defense that all DoD medical treatment facilities are to use the AMA CPT codes including approved panel codes for collecting laboratory workload and billing data. This coding is consistent with the common practice in the civilian community and is required for CMS compliance. All DoD medical treatment facilities will also use the LOINC® system for standardization of data transfer between facilities. These efforts should be implemented at each facility no later than 90 days from receipt of this letter.

My point of contact for this issue is LTC William Boisvert, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology-ZD, Rockville, MD, at (301) 319-0133/ DSN 285-0133.


William Winkenwerder, Jr., MD

Attachments:

1. Implementation Instructions
2. Background Papers

HA POLICY: 03-023

CHCS Procedure for Entering Panel Tests and Assigning CPT Codes:

MENU PATH: LSM > ELA > LTA > LTE

LPR	Patient Registration Menu
LPI	Patient Inquiry Menu
LSP	Specimen Processing Menu
LRM	Results Management Menu
LLM	Laboratory Management Support Menu
LAS	Administrative Support Menu
LSM	System Management Menu
LAH	Ad Hoc Report Generation Menu

Select Laboratory System Menu Option: LSM System Management Menu

ELA	Add/Edit Lab Files Menu
ILF	Inquire to Lab Files Menu
PLF	Print Lab Files Menu
LFC	Lab File - Copy an Entry

Select System Management Menu Option: ELA Add/Edit Lab Files Menu

APA	Anatomic Pathology Add/Edit Menu
BLE	Barcode Label Add/Edit Menu
BBA	Blood Bank Add/Edit Menu
EEF	Enter or Edit File Entries
IIA	Instrument Interface Add/Edit Menu
LSA	Laboratory Setup Add/Edit Menu
LTA	Lab Test Add/Edit Menu
MIA	Microbiology Add/Edit Menu

Select Add/Edit Lab Files Menu Option: LTA Lab Test Add/Edit Menu

CHE	Cumulative Header Add/Edit
CRF	Cumulative Report Test Add/Edit
EFE	Etiology Field Add/Edit
KEY	Keyboard ID Add/Edit
LAE	Lab Archive Parameters Add/Edit
LMF	Lab Method Add/Edit
LTE	Lab Test Add/Edit
CCE	LAB Weighted Values Table Maintenance (CAP CODES)
CCT	CPT Code Edit
PIN	Patient Instructions Add/Edit
WDE	Work Document File Add/Edit

Select Lab Test Add/Edit Menu Option: LTE

Select Add/Edit Lab Files Menu Option:

(E)dit existing test, (A)dd new test, or (Q)uit? A

Create new (S)ingle DOD Std test, (P)anel test, or (Q)C Only test? S// P

Name: RENAL FUNCTION PANEL
LRPANEL
Select Synonym: (multiple)
KIDNEY FUNCTION
RFT

Standardized Test: NO

Print Name:
Single/Panel: PANEL
Type: INPUT
Highest Priority: STAT
Duplicate Check Time:
Sensitive Results:
Select Accession Area: (multiple)
Enter your accession area(s)

Print Order:
Subscript: CLINICAL CHEMISTRY
Default Priority: ROUTINE
Duplicate Check Interval:
Approval Required:

Lab Collection Sample: Enter your collection sample
Select Collection Sample: (multiple)

Collection Sample: BLOOD
Container: MARB/RED
Required Comment:
Special Lab Handling:

Order Entry Remark:

Ward Remarks:

Lab Processing Instruction:
Select Lab Work Element: (multiple)

Lab Work Element: MAIN LAB

Lab Print Name: MAIN

Lab Section:

Unique Accession:

Test Cost:

CPT Code: (multiple)

80069 Pathology Consult:

80069 RENAL FUNCTION PANEL (I)

Are you adding '80069' as a new CPT CODE (the 1st

for this LAB WORK ELEMENT? Y

(NOTE: THE CPT CODE MUST BE ADDED TO EACH WORK ELEMENT IN WHICH THE
PANEL IS PERFORMED)

Select Lab Test In Panel: (multiple)

ALBUMIN
CALCIUM
CO2
CL
CREATININE
GLUCOSE

HA POLICY: 03-023

PO4
POTASSIUM
SODIUM
UREA NITROGEN

Inactive Flag:

File/exit Abort Edit
File changes and exit.

CURRENT PROCEDURAL TERMINOLOGY (CPT) PANEL TESTS

A	B	C	D	E	F
Panel Name (CPT)	CPT Code	Panel Name (DOD)	DOD Code	LOINC Name	LOINC Code
Basic Metabolic Panel (Includes Ca, CO2, Cl, Cr, Glu, K, Na, BUN)	80048	Basic Metabolic Panel		BASIC METABOLIC HCFA 2000 PANEL	24321-2
Electrolyte Panel (Includes Na, K, Cl, CO2)	80051	Electrolyte Panel		ELECTROLYTES HCFA 98 PANEL	24326-1
Comprehensive Metabolic Panel (Includes Alb, Tbil, Ca, CO2, Cl, Cr, Glu, ALP, K, TP, Na, ALT, AST, BUN)	80053	Comprehensive Metabolic Panel		COMPREHENSIVE METABOLIC HCFA 2000 PANEL	24323-0
Lipid Panel (Includes Total Cholesterol, HDL, Triglycerides)	80061	Lipids	4872	LIPID HCFA 95 PANEL	24331-1
Renal Function Panel (Includes Alb, Ca, CO2, Cl, Cr, Glu, Phos, K, Na, BUN)	80069	Renal Function Panel		RENAL FUNCTION HCFA 2000 PANEL	24352-6
Acute Hepatitis Panel (Includes HAAb IgM, HcAb, HbsAg, Hepatitis C Ab)	80074	Acute Hepatitis Panel		HEPATITIS HCFA 95 PANEL	24367-4
Hepatic Function Panel (Includes Alb, Tbil, DBil, Phos, TP, ALT, AST)	80076	Hepatic Function Panel		HEPATIC FUNCTION HCFA 95 PANEL	24324-6
TORCH Antibody Panel (Includes CMV Ab, HSV Ab, Rubella Ab, Toxoplasma Ab)	80090	Torch IGG	7531	TORCH HCFA 95 PANEL	24314-7
ACTH Stimulation Panel for Adrenal Insufficiency (Includes Cortisol X2)	80400	ACTH Stim Adrenal Insuff Panel			
ACTH Stimulation Panel for 21 Hydroxylase Deficiency (Includes Cortisol X2, 17 hydroxyprogesterone X2)	80402	ACTH Stim 21 Hydrox Def Panel			
ACTH Stimulation Panel for 3 Beta-Hydroxydehydrogenase Deficiency (Includes Cortisol X2, 17 hydroxyprogesterone X2)	80406	ACTH Stim 3 B-Hydrox Def Panel			
Andosterone Suppression Evaluation Panel (Includes Aldosterone X2, Renin X2)	80408	Andosterone Suppression Panel			
Calcitonin Stimulation Panel (Includes Calcitonin X3)	80410	Calcitonin Stimulation Panel			
Parathyroid Related Protein Stimulation Panel (Includes PTHrP X3)	80412	Parathyroid Related Protein Stimulation Panel			
Chronic Gonadotropin Stimulation Panel; Testosterone Response (Includes Testosterone X2 on 3 pooled samples)	80414	HCG-Testosterone Respon Panel			
Chronic Gonadotropin Stimulation Panel; Estradiol Response (Includes Estradiol X2 on 3 pooled samples)	80415	HCG-Estradiol Response Panel			
Renal Vein Renin Stimulation Panel (Includes Renin X6)	80416	Renin Renal Vein Stimulation	6890		
Peripheral Vein Renin Stimulation Panel (Includes Renin X2)	80417	Renin Peripheral Vein Stim	6888		
Combined Rapid Anterior Pituitary Evaluation Panel (Includes ACTH, LH, X4, FSH, X4, Prolactin X4, HGH X4, Cortisol X4, HGH X4)	80418	Comb Rapid Ant Pituitary Panel			
Dexamethasone Suppression Panel, 48 Hour (Includes Free Cortisol Urine X2, Cortisol X2, Volume measurement 81050 X2)	80420	Dexamethasone Suppression	2594		
Glucagon Tolerance Panel; for Insulinoma (Includes Glucose X3, Insulin X3)	80422	Glucagon Tol Insulinoma Panel			
Glucagon Tolerance Panel; for pheochromocytoma (Includes Catecholamines, fractionated CPT 82384 X2)	80424	Glucagon Tol Pheochrom Panel			
Gonadotropin Releasing Hormone Stimulation Panel (Includes FSH X4, LH X4)	80425	Gonadotropin RH Stim Panel			
Growth Hormone Stimulation Panel (Includes HGH X4)	80428	Growth Hormone Stim Panel			
Growth Hormone Suppression Panel (Includes Glucose X3, HGH X4)	80430	Growth Hormone Supres Panel			
Insulin-Induced C-Peptide Suppression Panel (Includes Insulin, C-peptide X5, Glucose X5)	80432	Insulin-Induce C-Pep Sup Panel			
Insulin Tolerance Panel; for ACTH Insufficiency (Includes Cortisol X5, Glucose X5)	80434	Insulin Tol for ACTH Def Panel			
Insulin Tolerance Panel; for Growth Hormone Deficiency (Includes Cortisol X5, Glucose X5)	80435	Insulin Tol for HGH Def Panel			
Metyrapone Panel (Includes Cortisol X3, 11 deoxycortisol X2)	80436	Metyrapone Panel			
Thyrotropin Releasing Hormone Stimulation Panel; One Hour (Includes TSH X3)	80438	TSH RH Stim One Hour Panel			
Thyrotropin Releasing Hormone Stimulation Panel; Two Hour (Includes TSH X4)	80439	TSH RH Stim Two Hour Panel			
Thyrotropin Releasing Hormone Stimulation Panel; For Hypoparathyroidism (Includes Prolactin X3)	80440	TSH RH Stim HyperProlact Panel			
Urinalysis, By Dipstick (Includes Bil, Glu, Hgb, Ket, Leuk, Nit, pH, Protein, SG, Urobilinogen; non-automated with microscopy)	81000	Urinalysis Non-Auto Non-Micro			
Urinalysis, Automated, With Microscopy (Includes CPT 81000 without microscopy)	81001	Urinalysis Auto With Micro			
Urinalysis, Non-Automated, Without Microscopy (Includes CPT 81000 without microscopy)	81002	Urinalysis Non-Auto W/Micro			
Urinalysis, Automated, Without Microscopy (Includes CPT 81000 without microscopy)	81003	Urinalysis Non-Auto Non-Micro			
Urinalysis, Microscopic Only	81015	Urinalysis, Microscopic			
Alkaloids, Urine, Qualitative	82101	Alkaloids, Urine			
Amino Acids; Multiple, Qualitative	82128	Amino Acids	552	AMINO ACIDS	27336-7
Amino Acids, 2 to 5 Amino Acids	82136	Amino Acides 2 to 5			
Amino Acids; 6 or More, Qualitative	82139	Amino Acides 6 or more			
Carnitine, Total and Free	82379	Carnitine Total and Free			
Catecholamines; Fractionated Urine	82384	Catecholamines; Fract. Plasma	1528	CATECHOLAMINES	15035-7
Creatine Kinase Isoenzymes	82552	Creatine Kinase Isoenzymes		CREATINE KINASE PANEL	24335-2
Creatine Kinase Isoforms	82554	Creatine Kinase Isoforms			
Creatinine Clearance	82575	Creatinine Clearance	2353	CREATININE CLEARANCE	13451-6
Estrogens, Fractionated	82671	Estrogens, Fractionated			

CURRENT PROCEDURAL TERMINOLOGY (CPT) PANEL TESTS

A	B	C	D	E	F
Panel Name (CPT)	CPT Code	Panel Name (DOD)	DOD Code	LOINC Name	LOINC Code
Gases, Blood, Any Combination of pH, pCO2, pO2, CO2, HCO3	82803	Gases Blood			241306-6
Gases, Blood with O2 Saturation by Direct Measurement Except Pulse Oximetry	82805	Gases Blood with O2 Sat		GAS PANEL	
Gastric Acid, Free and Total	82976	Gastric Acid Free and Total			
Glucagon Tolerance Test	82946	Glucagon Tolerance Test			
Tolerance Test (GTT), Three Specimens (Includes Glucose)	82951	Glucose Tolerance 3 Specimens			
Tolerance Test (GTT), Each Additional Beyond Three Specimens	82952	Glucose Tolerance Over 3 Spec		GLUCOSE TOLERANCE	21004-7
Tolbutamide Tolerance Test	82953	Tolbutamide Tolerance Test			
Haptoglobin, Quantitative Phenotypes	83012	Haptoglobin Quant Phenotypes			
Hemoglobin Fractionation and Quantitation; Electrophoresis (eg A2, S, C, and/or F)	83020	Hemoglobin Fract and Quant			
Ketogenic Steroids, Fractionation	83582	Ketogenic Steroids Fract			
Ketosteroids, Fractionation	83593	Ketosteroids Fract			
Lactate Dehydrogenase Isoenzymes, Separation and Quantitation	83625	LD Isoenzymes			5910-5
Lipoprotein, Blood; Electrophoretic Separation and Quantitation	83715	Lipoprotein Electrophoresis		LACTATE DEHYDROGENASE ISOENZYMES	
Molecular Diagnostics, Separation by Gel Electrophoresis	83894	Molecular Diagnostics		LIPOPROTEIN FRACTIONS	5911-3
Phosphatase, Alkaline Isoenzymes	84080	ALP Isoenzymes		ALKALINE PHOSPHATASE ISOENZYMES	14599-8
Porphyrits, Urine, Quantitation and Fractionation	84120	Porphyrits Urine Quant Fract			
Protein, Electrophoretic Fractionation and Quantitation	84165	Protein Electrophoresis		PROTEIN ELECTROPHORESIS PANEL	24351-9
Urea Nitrogen, Clearance	84545	Urea Nitrogen Clearance		UREA NITROGEN RENAL CLEARANCE	13306-1
Volatiles (eg, acetic anhydride, carbon tetrachloride, dichloroethane, diethyl ether, isopropanol, methanol)	84600	Volatiles	7839	VOLATILES PANEL	24350-1
Blood Count, Manual Differential WBC Count (Includes RBC morphology and platelet estimation)	85007	Blood Count and Manual Diff		DIFFERENTIAL PANEL	29581-6
Hemogram, Automated (RBC, WBC, Hgb, Hct and Indices Only)	85021	Hemogram Auto		HEMOGRAM PANEL	24356-4
Hemogram, Automated and Manual Differential WBC Count	85022	Hemogram Auto+ Man Diff			
Hemogram and Platelet Count, Automated, and Manual Differential WBC Count (CBC)	85023	Hemogram Auto+Man Diff+Plt		HEMOGRAM & DIFFERENTIAL PANEL	24350-2
Hemogram and Platelet Count, Automated and Automated Partial Differential WBC Count (CBC)	85024	Hemogram Auto+Part Auto Diff		HEMOGRAM, PLATELETS & DIFFERENTIAL PANEL	24351-8
Hemogram and Platelet Count, Automated, and Automated Complete Differential WBC Count (CBC)	85025	Hemogram Auto+Comp Auto Diff			
Hemogram and Platelet Count, Automated	85027	Hemogram+Plt Auto		HEMOGRAM & PLATELETS PANEL	24317-0
Blood Count; Hemogram, Manual, Complete CBC (RBC, WBC, Hgb, Hct, Differential and Indices)	85031	Blood Count Manual Complete			
Allergen Specific IgE; Qualitative, multiallergen screen (dipslick, paddle or disk)	86005	Allergen Screen Multi Qual IgE			
T Cells; Absolute CD4 and CD8 Count, Including Ratio	86360	T Cells Absolute CD4+CD8+Ratio			
HIV-1 and HIV-2, Single Assay	86703	HIV-1+HIV-2			
DR/DQ, Multiple Antigens	86817	DR-DQ Multiple Antigens			
Susceptibility Studies, Antimicrobial Agent; Disk Method, Per Plate (12 or Fewer Agents)	87184	Susceptibility Studies Disk		BACTERIAL SUSCEPTIBILITY PANEL	29376-6

Background Paper
On
Standardization of CHCS lab test files

The DoD laboratory community has worked since 1997 to achieve DoD Global Lab Information Transfer (GLIT) between DoD, Veterans Administration, and Commercial Reference Laboratories. The Laboratory Joint Working Group (LJWG) subcommittee on DoD GLIT coordinated a plan through the Service Surgeons General in January 1997. A contract with SAIC in 1998 kicked off a joint venture with Veterans Administration (VA). A major hurdle was soon encountered when it became clear that interconnectivity would require standardization of the CHCS lab test files within the DoD. As a solution, the subcommittee chose the American Medical Association's (AMA) Current Procedure Terminology (CPT®) system for billing and the Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC®) system for data transfer.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has selected CPT as the standard code set for reporting health care services in electronic transactions. CPT is the most widely accepted listing of descriptive terms and identifying codes for reporting medical services under public and private health insurance programs.

The purpose of the LOINC database is to facilitate the exchange and pooling of results, such as blood hemoglobin, serum potassium, or vital signs, for clinical care, outcomes management, and research. Currently, most laboratories and other diagnostic services use HL7 to send their results electronically from their reporting systems to their care systems. However, most laboratories and other diagnostic care services identify tests in these messages by means of their internal and idiosyncratic code values. Thus, the care system cannot fully "understand" and properly file the results they receive unless they either adopt the producer's laboratory codes (which is impossible if they receive results from multiple sources), or invest in the work to map each result producer's code system to their internal code system. LOINC codes are universal identifiers for laboratory and other clinical observations that solve this problem.

In 1999, the subcommittee completed the requirements for implementation of test file standardization. In June 2000, the new coding systems were loaded on the CHCS across the DoD in anticipation of Alpha testing. Alpha testing was very promising, convincing the subcommittee that the coding system, including Test Panels, should to be mandated across the three Services in order to achieve true interconnectivity.

POC for this background paper is LTC William Boisvert at 301-319-0133.