

## Health Plus Medical & Claims Payment Bulletin

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**Bulletin number:** CL - 708

**Original Bulletin Date:** 03/01/06

**Updated:** 04/24/06

**Subject:** Pathology and Laboratory Services

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### **Policy:**

- Claims for pathology and laboratory services should be billed using CPT -4 Codes in the 80000 series.
- Pathology and laboratory services designated as **CLIA-waived** (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments) services may be performed and billed by office-based physicians or independent laboratories.
- If a physician has a CLIA certificate for additional laboratory services and the physician supplies Health Plus with a valid copy, they can bill for these services that the certificate covers.

All other laboratory services may be billed only by independent laboratories participating with Health Plus. For a list of CLIA-waived services see [www.cms.hhs.gov/clia/](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/clia/).

- Pathology and laboratory services performed by nonparticipating labs require prior authorization by Health Plus.
- The technical component ('TC' modifier) of pathology and laboratory services performed as part of an inpatient stay, other institutional stay, ambulatory surgical procedure, emergency room or outpatient visit are included in the institution's DRG rate or facility charge.

The professional component (-26 modifier), where applicable, will be reimbursed to an eligible provider.

**All inpatient pathology and laboratory tests must be properly ordered by a physician, as described in Medicare (CMS) regulations.**


**Payment:**

- Unlisted services or procedures, as defined by Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) require pertinent clinical information to be submitted with the claim to allow proper reimbursement.

**Services Not Payable:**

- Health Plus will not reimburse for storage of tissues, 88240 - 88241.
- Health Plus will not reimburse for reproductive medicine procedures (89250 - 89356), since the benefit package for all lines of business excludes infertility services.
- Infertility as well as fertility services are not covered. However, some tests such as Prolactin and Thyroxine blood levels (CPT-4 codes 84146 and 84436) may be covered for medically necessary purposes unrelated to infertility, such as bleeding or menstrual irregularity.

**Policies in this manual are intended to reflect standard Health Plus procedures. In instances where a provider's contract contains other policies which may be more or less restrictive than those in this manual, these contractual provisions will apply.**

Date Approved:	5/16/06	Approved By:	
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