Reporting Drug Testing Codes

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The CPT codes used to report drug testing are located in three subsections of the pathology and laboratory section of the CPT book: Drug Testing (80100-80103), Therapeutic Drug Assays (80150 - 80299), and Chemistry (82000-84999). Qualitative assays (tests that detect whether a particular analyte, constituent, or condition is present) are reported with the drug testing codes; quantitative assays (tests that give results expressing the specific numerical amount of an analyte in a specimen) are reported with the therapeutic drug assay or chemistry codes.

The qualitative assay codes are as follows:

80100Drug, screen; multiple drug classes, each procedure

80101single drug class, each drug class

80102Drug confirmation, each procedure

For example, immunoassays, which are used to identify single drug classes, should be coded using 80101 (when used in drug screening), whether the test is performed using a random access analyzer, a single analyte test kit, or a multiple analyte test kit. Chromatography, which can identify multiple drug classes, is coded using 80100 (when used in drug screening).

For code 80100, each combination of stationary and mobile phase is to be counted as one procedure. For example, if screening for three drugs by chromato-graphy requires one stationary phase with three mobile phases, report 80100 three times. However, if multiple drugs can be detected using a single analysis (eg, one stationary phase with one mobile phase), report 80100 only once.

For code 80101, each single drug class method tested and reported is to be counted as one drug class. For example, if a sample is aliquoted to five wells and separate class-specific immunoassays are run on each of the five wells and reported separately, report 80101 five times. Similarly, if a sample is run on a rapid assay kit comprising five class-specific immunoassays in a single kit, and the five classes are reported separately, code 80101 should be reported five times.

Use 80102 for each procedure necessary for confirmation. As with the screening code (80100), for chromatography, each combination of stationary and mobile phase is to be counted as one procedure. For example, if confirmation of three drugs by chromatography requires one stationary phase with three mobile phases, report 80102 three times. However, if multiple drugs can be confirmed using a single analysis (eg, one stationary phase with one mobile phase), report 80102 only once.

Quantitative assays should be reported using the appropriate code in the therapeutic drug assay section (80150 - 80299) or chemistry section (82000 - 84999). Quantitative chromatography for analytes not specified in those sections may be coded using codes 82491 or 82492.

82491Chromatography, quantitative, column (eg, gas liquid or HPLC); single analyte not elsewhere specified, single stationary and mobile phase

82492multiple analytes, single stationary and mobile phase

Quantitation of drugs not elsewhere specified by methods other than chromatography may be coded using code 80299.

80299Quantitation of drug, not elsewhere specified

The table on page 2 illustrates the list of drugs and the appropriate qualitative screening, confirmatory, and quantitative codes.

Table of Drugs and the Appropriate Qualitative Screening, Confirmatory, and Quantitative Codes

Drug	Qualitative Screen		Confirmation	Quantitative
	Multiple drug class method	Single drug class method		
Alcohols	80100a	80101b	80102c	82055 or 82075d
Amphetamines	80100a	80101b	80102c	82145
Barbiturates	80100a	80101b	80102c	80184 or 82205e
Benzodiazepines	80100a	80101b	80102c	80154
Cocaine and metabolites	80100a	80101b	80102c	82520

Methadone	80100a	80101b	80102c	83840
Methaqualone	80100a	80101b	80102c	80299 or 82491f
Opiates	80100a	80101b	80102c	83925
Phencyclidine	80100a	80101b	80102c	83992
Phenothiazines	80100a	80101b	80102c	84022
Propoxyphene	80100a	80101b	80102c	80299 or 82491f
Tetrahydro- cannabinoids	80100a	80101b	80102c	80299 or 82491f
Tricyclic Antidepressants	80100a	80101b	80102c	80152, 80160, 80166, 80174, 80182g; 80299 or 82491f

a. Use code 80100 for each combination of mobile phase with stationary phase.

b. Use code 80101 for each single drug class tested and reported.

c. Use code 80102 for each combination of mobile phase with stationary phase used for drug confirmation.

d. Code 82055 for "Alcohol (ethanol); any specimen except breath" and code 82075 for "Alcohol (ethanol); breath."

e. Code 80184 for "Phenobarbital," 80188 for "Primidone" and 82205 for "Barbiturates, not elsewhere specified."

f. If there is no appropriate quantitative code for the drug listed, use code 82491 for chromatographic determination or 80299 for other methods.

g. Code 80152 for "Amitriptyline," 80160 for "Desipramine," 80166 for "Doxepin," 80174 for "Imipramine," or 80182 for "Nortriptyline."

Clinical Vignettes

The following vignettes illustrate the appropriate application of the CPT code(s) indicated. It is important to note that the vignettes only represent the typical patient(s) and service/procedure(s). Third-party payor reporting practices may differ.

Vignette #1:80100, Drug, screen; multiple drug classes, each procedure. An 18-year-old male comes to the emergency department (ED) in a coma. The treating physician orders a

drug screen necessarily without identifying any specific drug class to be tested. The laboratory performs a multiple drug class screen using thin layer chromatography with a single mobile and stationary phase.

To code this you would report 80100, because this code is used for qualitative drug screening by chromatographic methods. One unit would be coded for the single stationary and mobile phase combination.

Vignette #2:80101, Drug, screen; single drug class, each drug class. A 30-year-old female, with a history of anxiety and depression treated with prescription medications, comes to the ED in a coma. The treating physician orders a drug screen for alcohol, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, phenothiazines, and tricyclic antidepressants. The laboratory performs single drug class screening for each analyte using immunoassay or enzyme assay methods in a random access analyzer.

To code this you would use 80101 times five, because this code is used to report immunoassay and enzyme assay, single drug class methods. Five units are reported as each single drug class is reported separately.

Vignette #3:80101, Drug, screen; single drug class, each drug class. A 25-year-old male with a history of illegal drug use comes to the ED in a coma. The treating physician orders a drug screen for amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine and metabolites, opiates, phencyclidine, and tetrahydrocannabinoids. The laboratory performs single drug class screening for each analyte using a multiple analyte rapid test immunoassay kit.

To code this you would use 80101 times seven, because immunoassay single drug class methods are reported using this code regardless of platform (random access analyzer or multiple analyte test kit). Seven units are reported as each single drug class is reported separately.

Vignette #4:80102, Drug, confirmation, each procedure.

A 20-year-old female with a history of illegal drug use comes to the ED in a coma. The treating physician orders a drug screen necessarily without identifying any specific drug class to be tested. The laboratory performs a multiple drug class screen and reports back positive, consistent with opiates. The treating physician orders a confirmatory test, which the laboratory runs to confirm opiates using high performance liquid chromatography (not quantitative).

To code the multiple drug class screen, use 80100 (one unit would be coded). To code the confirmatory test use 80102, because this code is used to report confirmatory testing-without quantification. One unit would be coded for the single stationary with mobile phase.
