

Lab Billing Brief

Navigating and Preventing Denials

This bulletin aims to keep you informed and equipped with the latest information on medical necessity of the tests you order to ensure accurate and efficient billing practices.

Tests that contain

CPT®: 82728, 83540, 84466

Corewell Health Michigan: Southeast, Southwest, and West:

- Ferritin [LAB68]
- Iron [LAB94]
- Iron and Iron Binding Capacity (TIBC) [LAB8290]
- Transferrin [LAB133]

More Info Available:

[BCBS Policy](#)

[Medicare NCD](#)

Questions?

If you have further laboratory questions, please reach out to your laboratory account manager.

Previous Billing Briefs

[Z-Codes and Medical Necessity](#)

[Testosterone Testing](#)

[Antibody Testing for Syphilis](#)

Serum Iron Studies

Corewell Health is seeing large numbers of denials, especially for patients with Blue Cross where Ferritin testing (CPT®: 82728) is being ordered but diagnosis coding that supports medical necessity is not present.

Additionally, for Medicare and Medicare Advantage patients, we are seeing denials on Iron (CPT®: 83540) and Transferrin (CPT®: 84466)

When Testing is Medically Supported

Ferritin, iron and either iron binding capacity or transferrin can be used for the diagnosis of iron deficiency, anemia, and for iron overload conditions as well as follow up for individuals on iron therapy.

- Iron deficiency anemia, unspecified D50.9
- Iron deficiency anemia secondary to blood loss (chronic): D50.0
- Other iron deficiency anemias: D50.8
- Iron deficiency: E61.1
- Hereditary hemochromatosis: E83.110

Serum ferritin may be appropriate for monitoring iron status in patients with chronic renal disease with or without dialysis.

- Chronic Kidney Disease, Stages 1-5: N18.1-N18.9

BCBS ONLY:

Measurement of serum transferrin saturation for individuals with **symptoms** of hemochromatosis:

- Other fatigue: R53.83
- Pain in unspecified joint: M25.50 (also accepted by Medicare)
- Abnormal weight loss: R63.4

When Testing Is NOT Medically Supported

BCBS ONLY:

- Anemia, **unspecified**: D64.9
- Nonscarring hair loss, unspecified: L65.9
- Other specified abnormal findings of blood chemistry: R79.89

When Testing Is NOT Medically Supported *continued*

BCBS and Medicare/Medicare Advantage:

- Encounter for general adult medical examination without abnormal findings: Z00.00
 - *Also other types of routine or special exams, for example;
 - Encounter for other specified special examinations: Z01.89
 - Encounter for routine child health exam w/o abnormal findings: Z00.129
- Acute kidney failure, **unspecified**: N17.9

Medicare/Medicare Advantage ONLY

- Other fatigue: R53.83
- Essential (primary) hypertension: I10