



190.15 - Blood Counts

Other Names/Abbreviations

CBC

Description

Blood counts are used to evaluate and diagnose diseases relating to abnormalities of the blood or bone marrow. These include primary disorders such as anemia, leukemia, polycythemia, thrombocytosis and thrombocytopenia. Many other conditions secondarily affect the blood or bone marrow, including reaction to inflammation and infections, coagulopathies, neoplasms and exposure to toxic substances. Many treatments and therapies affect the blood or bone marrow, and blood counts may be used to monitor treatment effects.

The complete blood count (CBC) includes a hemogram and differential white blood count (WBC). The hemogram includes enumeration of red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets, as well as the determination of hemoglobin, hematocrit, and indices.

The symptoms of hematological disorders are often nonspecific, and are commonly encountered in patients who may or may not prove to have a disorder of the blood or bone marrow. Furthermore, many medical conditions that are not primarily due to abnormalities of blood or bone marrow may have hematological manifestations that result from the disease or its treatment. As a result, the CBC is one of the most commonly indicated laboratory tests.

In patients with possible hematological abnormalities, it may be necessary to determine the hemoglobin and hematocrit, to calculate the red cell indices, and to measure the concentration of white blood cells and platelets. These measurements are usually performed on a multichannel analyzer that measures all of the parameters on every sample. Therefore, laboratory assessments routinely include these measurements.

HCPCS Codes (Alphanumeric, CPT[®] AMA)

Code	Description
85004	Blood count, automated differential white blood cell (WBC) count
85007	Blood count; blood smear, microscopic examination with manual differential WBC count
85008	Blood count; blood smear, microscopic examination without manual differential WBC count
85013	Blood count, Spun microhematocrit
85014	Blood count, hematocrit (Hct)
85018	Blood count, Hemoglobin
85025	Blood count, complete (CBC), automated (Hgb, Hct, RBC, WBC and platelet count) and automated differential WBC count
85027	Blood count, complete (CBC), automated (Hgb, Hct, RBC, WBC and platelet count)
85032	Blood count; manual cell count (erythrocyte, leukocyte, platelet) each
85048	Blood count, leukocyte (WBC), automated
85049	Blood count; platelet, automated

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ICD-9-CM Codes Covered by Medicare Program

Any ICD-9-CM code not listed in either the non-covered section or the medical necessity section.

Indications

Indications for a CBC or hemogram include red cell, platelet, and white cell disorders. Examples of these indications are enumerated individually below.

1. Indications for a CBC generally include the evaluation of bone marrow dysfunction as a result of neoplasms, therapeutic agents, exposure to toxic substances, or pregnancy. The CBC is also useful in assessing peripheral destruction of blood cells, suspected bone marrow failure or bone marrow infiltrate, suspected myeloproliferative, myelodysplastic, or lymphoproliferative processes, and immune disorders.
2. Indications for hemogram or CBC related to red cell (RBC) parameters of the hemogram include signs, symptoms, test results, illness, or disease that can be associated with anemia or other red blood cell disorder (e.g., pallor, weakness, fatigue, weight loss, bleeding, acute injury associated with blood loss or suspected blood loss, abnormal menstrual bleeding, hematuria, hematemesis, hematochezia, positive fecal occult blood test, malnutrition, vitamin deficiency, malabsorption, neuropathy, known malignancy, presence of acute or chronic disease that may have associated anemia, coagulation or hemostatic disorders, postural dizziness, syncope, abdominal pain, change in bowel habits, chronic marrow hypoplasia or decreased RBC production, tachycardia, systolic heart murmur, congestive heart failure, dyspnea, angina, nailbed deformities, growth retardation, jaundice, hepatomegaly, splenomegaly, lymphadenopathy, ulcers on the lower extremities).
3. Indications for hemogram or CBC related to red cell (RBC) parameters of the hemogram include signs, symptoms, test results, illness, or disease that can be associated with polycythemia (for example, fever, chills, ruddy skin, conjunctival redness, cough, wheezing, cyanosis, clubbing of the fingers, orthopnea, heart murmur, headache, vague cognitive changes including memory changes, sleep apnea, weakness, pruritus, dizziness, excessive sweating, visual symptoms, weight loss, massive obesity, gastrointestinal bleeding, paresthesias, dyspnea, joint symptoms, epigastric distress, pain and erythema of the fingers or toes, venous or arterial thrombosis, thromboembolism, myocardial infarction, stroke, transient ischemic attacks, congenital heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, increased erythropoietin production associated with neoplastic, renal or hepatic disorders, androgen or diuretic use, splenomegaly, hepatomegaly, diastolic hypertension.)
4. Specific indications for CBC with differential count related to the WBC include signs, symptoms, test results, illness, or disease associated with leukemia, infections or inflammatory processes, suspected bone marrow failure or bone marrow infiltrate, suspected myeloproliferative, myelodysplastic or lymphoproliferative disorder, use of drugs that may cause leukopenia, and immune disorders (e.g., fever, chills, sweats, shock, fatigue, malaise, tachycardia, tachypnea, heart murmur, seizures, alterations of consciousness, meningismus, pain such as headache, abdominal pain, arthralgia,

odynophagia, or dysuria, redness or swelling of skin, soft tissue bone, or joint, ulcers of the skin or mucous membranes, gangrene, mucous membrane discharge, bleeding, thrombosis, respiratory failure, pulmonary infiltrate, jaundice, diarrhea, vomiting, hepatomegaly, splenomegaly, lymphadenopathy, opportunistic infection, such as oral candidiasis.)

5. Specific indications for CBC related to the platelet count include signs, symptoms, test results, illness, or disease associated with increased or decreased platelet production and destruction, or platelet dysfunction (e.g., gastrointestinal bleeding, genitourinary tract bleeding, bilateral epistaxis, thrombosis, ecchymosis, purpura, jaundice, petechiae, fever, heparin therapy, suspected DIC, shock, pre-eclampsia, neonate with maternal ITP, massive transfusion, recent platelet transfusion, cardiopulmonary bypass, hemolytic uremic syndrome, renal diseases, lymphadenopathy, hepatomegaly, splenomegaly, hypersplenism, neurologic abnormalities, viral or other infection, myeloproliferative, myelodysplastic, or lymphoproliferative disorder, thrombosis, exposure to toxic agents, excessive alcohol ingestion, autoimmune disorder (SLE, RA).
6. Indications for hemogram or CBC related to red cell (RBC) parameters of the hemogram include, in addition to those already listed, thalassemia, suspected hemoglobinopathy, lead poisoning, arsenic poisoning, and spherocytosis.
7. Specific indications for CBC with differential count related to the WBC include, in addition to those already listed, storage diseases; mucopolysaccharidoses, and use of drugs that cause leukocytosis such as G-CSF or CM-CSF.
8. Specific indications for CBC related to platelet count include, in addition to those already listed, May-Hegglin syndrome and Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome.

Limitations

1. Testing of patients who are asymptomatic, or who do not have a condition that could be expected to result in a hematological abnormality, is screening and is not a covered service.
2. In some circumstances it may be appropriate to perform only a hemoglobin or hematocrit to assess the oxygen carrying capacity of the blood. When the ordering provider requests only a hemoglobin or hematocrit, the remaining components of the CBC are not covered.
3. When a blood count is performed for an end-stage renal disease (ESRD) patient, and is billed outside the ESRD rate, documentation of the medical necessity for the blood count must be submitted with the claim.
4. In some patients presenting with certain signs, symptoms or diseases, a single CBC may be appropriate. Repeat testing may not be indicated unless abnormal results are found, or unless there is a change in clinical condition. If repeat testing is performed, a more descriptive diagnosis code (e.g., anemia) should be reported to support medical necessity. However, repeat testing may be indicated where results are normal in patients with conditions where there is a continued risk for the development of hematologic abnormality.



ICD-9-CM Codes That Do Not Support Medical Necessity

The individual ICD-9-CM codes included in code ranges in the table below can be viewed on CMS' website under Downloads: Lab Code List. The link is: <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coverage/CoverageGenInfo/LabNCDsICD9.html>

Code	Description
078.10 – 078.19	Viral warts
210.0-210.9	Benign neoplasm of lip, oral cavity, and pharynx
214.0	Lipoma, skin and subcutaneous tissue of face
216.0-216.9	Benign neoplasm of skin
217	Benign neoplasm of breast
222.0-222.9	Benign neoplasm of male genital organs
224.0	Benign neoplasm of eyeball, except conjunctiva, cornea, retina, and choroid
230.0	Carcinoma in situ of lip, oral cavity and pharynx
232.0-232.9	Carcinoma in situ of skin
300.00-300.09	Neurotic disorders
301.0-301.9	Personality disorders
302.0-302.9	Sexual and gender identity disorders
307.0	Stuttering
307.20-307.23	Tics
307.3	Stereotypic movement disorder
307.80-307.89	Pain disorders related to psychological factors
312.00-312.9	Disturbance of conduct, not elsewhere classified
313.0-313.9	Disturbance of emotions specific to childhood and adolescence
314.00-314.9	Hyperkinetic syndrome of childhood
338.0	Central pain syndrome
338.11	Acute pain due to trauma
338.12	Acute post-thoracotomy pain
338.18	Other acute postoperative pain
338.19	Other acute pain
338.21	Chronic pain due to trauma
338.22	Chronic post-thoracotomy pain
338.28	Other chronic postoperative pain
338.29	Other chronic pain
338.4	Chronic pain syndrome
363.30-363.35	Chorioretinal scars
363.40-363.43	Choroidal degeneration
363.50-363.57	Hereditary choroidal dystrophies
363.70-363.9	Choroidal detachment
366.00-366.9	Cataract
367.0-367.9	Disorders of refraction and accommodation
371.00-371.9	Corneal opacity and other disorders of cornea
373.00-373.9	Inflammation of eyelids

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Code	Description
375.00-375.9	Disorders of lacrimal system
376.21-376.22	Endocrine exophthalmos
376.40-376.47	Deformity of orbit
376.50-376.52	Enophthalmos
376.6	Retained (old) foreign body following penetrating wound of orbit
376.81-376.82	Orbital cysts; myopathy of extraocular muscles
376.89	Other orbital disorders
376.9	Unspecified disorder of orbit
377.10-377.16	Optic atrophy
377.21-377.24	Other disorders of optic disc
384.20-384.25	Perforation of tympanic membrane
384.81-384.82	Other specified disorders of tympanic membrane
385.00-385.9	Other disorders of middle ear and mastoid
387.0-387.9	Otosclerosis
388.00-388.32	Degenerative and vascular disorders of ear; noise effects on inner ear; sudden hearing loss, unspecified; and tinnitus
388.40-388.45	Other abnormal auditory perception
388.5	Disorders of acoustic nerve
389.00-389.06, 389.08	Conductive hearing loss
389.10-389.18	Sensorineural hearing loss
389.20-389.22	Mixed hearing loss
389.7	Deaf, non-speaking, not elsewhere classifiable
389.8, 389.9	Hearing loss
440.0-440.1	Atherosclerosis of aorta and renal artery
443.81-443.9	Other and unspecified peripheral vascular disease
448.1	Capillary nevus, non neoplastic
457.0	Postmastectomy lymphedema syndrome
470	Deviated nasal septum
471.0-471.9	Nasal polyps
478.0	Hypertrophy of nasal turbinates
478.11	Nasal mucositis (ulcerative)
478.19	Other disease of nasal cavity and sinuses
478.4	Polyp of vocal cord or larynx
520.0-520.9	Disorders of tooth development and eruption
521.00-521.15, 521.20-521.25, 521.30-521.35, 521.40-521.42, 521.49, 521.5-521.7, 521.81, 521.89, 521.9	Diseases of hard tissues of teeth
524.00-524.9	Dentofacial anomalies, including malocclusion

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Code	Description
525.0, 525.10-525.13, 525.19, 525.20-525.26, 525.3, 525.40-525.44, 525.50-525.54, 525.60- 525.67, 525.69	Other diseases and conditions of teeth and supporting structures
525.71	Osseointegration failure of dental implant
525.72	Post-osseointegration biological failure of dental implant
525.73	Post-osseointegration mechanic failure of dental implant
525.8	Other specified disorders of the teeth and supporting structures
525.9	Unspecified disorder of the teeth and supporting structures
526.0-526.3	Diseases of the jaws
526.61	Perforation of root canal space
526.62	Endodontic overfill
526.63	Endodontic underfill
526.69	Other periradicular pathology associated with previous endodontic treatment
527.6-527.9	Diseases of salivary glands
575.6	Cholesterolosis of gallbladder
600.00-600.91	Hyperplasia of prostate
603.0	Encysted hydrocele
603.8	Other specified types of hydrocele
603.9	Hydrocele, unspecified
605	Redundant prepuce and phimosis
606.0-606.1	Infertility, male azoospermia and oligospermia
608.1	Spermatocele
608.20	Torsion of testis, unspecified
608.21	Extravaginal torsion of spermatic cord
608.22	Intravaginal torsion of spermatic cord
608.23	Torsion of appendix testis
608.24	Torsion of appendix epididymis
608.3	Atrophy of testis
610.0-610.9	Benign mammary dysplasia
611.1-611.6	Other disorders of breast
611.9	Unspecified breast disorder
616.2	Cyst of Bartholin's gland
618.00-618.05, 618.09, 618.1-618.7, 618.81-618.83, 618.84, 618.89, 618.9	Genital prolapse
620.0-620.3	Noninflammatory disorders of ovary, fallopian tube, & broad ligament
621.6-621.7	Malposition or chronic inversion of uterus
627.2-627.9	Menopausal and post menopausal disorders
628.0-628.9	Infertility, female

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Code	Description
676.00-676.94	Other disorders of breast associated with childbirth and disorders of lactation
691.0-691.8	Atopic dermatitis and related disorders
692.0-692.9	Contact dermatitis and other eczema
700	Corns and callosities
701.0-701.9	Other hypertrophic and atrophic conditions of skin
702.0-702.8	Other dermatoses
703.9	Unspecified disease of nail
706.0-706.9	Diseases of sebaceous glands
709.00-709.4	Other disorders of skin and subcutaneous tissue
715.00-715.98	Osteoarthritis
716.00-716.99	Other and unspecified arthropathies
718.00-718.99	Other derangement of joint
726.0-726.91	Peripheral enthesopathies and allied syndromes
727.00-727.9	Other disorders of synovium, tendon, and bursa
728.10-728.85	Disorders of muscle ligament and fascia
732.0-732.9	Osteochondropathies
733.00-733.09	Osteoporosis
734	Flat foot
735.0-735.9	Acquired deformities of toe
736.00-736.9	Other acquired deformities of limb
737.0-737.9	Curvature of spine
738.0-738.9	Other acquired deformity
739.0-739.9	Nonallopathic lesions, not elsewhere classified
799.81	Decreased libido
830.0-832.19	Dislocation of jaw, shoulder, and elbow
832.2	Nursemaid's elbow
833.00-833.19	Dislocation of wrist
834.00-834.12	Dislocation of finger
835.00-835.13	Dislocation of hip
836.0-836.69	Dislocation of knee
837.0-837.1	Dislocation of ankle
838.00-838.19	Dislocation of foot
839.00-839.9	Other, multiple and ill-defined dislocations
840.0-848.9	Sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles
905.0-909.9	Late effects of musculoskeletal and connective tissue injuries
910.0-919.9	Superficial injuries
930.0-932	Foreign body on external eye, in ear, in nose
955.0-957.9	Injury to peripheral nerve
V03.0-V06.9	Need for prophylactic vaccination

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Code	Description
V11.0-V11.3	Personal history of mental disorder; schizophrenia, affective disorders, neurosis, and alcoholism
V11.4	Personal history of combat and operational stress reaction
V11.8-V11.9	Personal history of other and unspecified mental disorders
V14.0-V14.8	Personal history of allergy to medicinal agents
V16.0	Family history of malignant neoplasm, gastrointestinal tract
V16.3	Family history of malignant neoplasm, breast
V21.0-V21.9	Constitutional states in development
V25.01-V25.04, V25.09	Encounter for contraceptive management; general counseling and advice
V25.11	Encounter for insertion of intrauterine contraceptive device
V25.12	Encounter for removal of intrauterine contraceptive device
V25.13	Encounter for removal and reinsertion of intrauterine contraceptive device
V25.2-V25.3, V25.40-V25.43, V25.49, V25.5, V25.8, V25.9	Encounter for sterilization; menstrual extraction; surveillance of previously prescribed contraceptive methods; and insertion of implantable subdermal contraceptive; other specified and unspecified contraceptive management
V26.0-V26.39	Procreative management
V26.41	Other procreative counseling and advice using natural family planning
V26.42	Encounter for fertility preservation counseling
V26.49	Other procreative management, counseling and advice
V26.51	Tubal ligation status
V26.52	Vasectomy status
V26.81	Encounter for assisted reproductive fertility procedure cycle
V26.82	Encounter for fertility preservation procedure
V26.89-V26.9	Other specified and unspecified procreative management
V40.0-V40.9	Mental and behavioral problems
V41.0-V41.9	Problems with special senses and other special functions
V43.0-V43.1	Organ or tissue replaced by other means, eye globe or lens
V44.0-V44.9	Artificial opening status
V45.00-V45.02, V45.09	Other post surgical states
V45.11	Renal dialysis status
V45.12	Non-compliance with renal dialysis
V45.2-V45.4, V45.51, V45.52, V45.59, V45.61, V45.69, V45.71-V45.79, V45.81-V45.85, V45.86, V45.89	Other post surgical states
V48.0-V48.9	Problems with head, neck, and trunk
V49.0 - V49.85	Other conditions influencing health status
V49.86	Do not resuscitate status
V49.87	Physical restraints status

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Code	Description
V49.89 - V49.9	Other specified and unspecified conditions influencing health status
V51.0	Encounter for breast reconstruction following mastectomy
V51.8	Other aftercare involving the use of plastic surgery
V52.0-V52.9	Fitting and adjustment of prosthetic device and implant
V53.01-V53.09	Fitting and adjustment of devices related to nervous system & special senses
V53.1	Fitting and adjustment of spectacles and contact lenses
V53.31-V53.39	Fitting and adjustment of cardiac device
V53.4	Fitting and adjustment of orthodontic devices
V53.50	Fitting and adjustment of intestinal appliance and device
V53.51	Fitting and adjustment of gastric lap band
V53.59	Fitting and adjustment of other gastrointestinal appliance and device
V53.6	Fitting and adjustment of urinary devices
V53.7	Fitting and adjustment of orthopedic devices
V53.8	Fitting and adjustment of wheelchair
V53.90-V53.99	Fitting and adjustment of other and unspecified device
V54.01-V54.9	Other orthopedic aftercare
V55.0-V55.9	Attention to artificial openings
V57.0-V57.2	Care involving use of rehabilitation procedures
V57.3	Care involving speech-language therapy
V57.4-V57.9	Orthoptic training, other specified, and unspecified rehabilitation procedure
V58.5	Orthodontics
V59.01-V59.9	Donors
V61.01	Family disruption due to family member on military deployment
V61.02	Family disruption due to return of family member from military deployment
V61.03	Family disruption due to divorce or legal separation
V61.04	Family disruption due to parent-child estrangement
V61.05	Family disruption due to child in welfare custody
V61.06	Family disruption due to child in foster care or in care of non-parental family member
V61.07	Family disruption due to death of family member
V61.08	Family disruption due to other extended absence of family member
V61.09	Other family disruption
V61.10	Counseling for marital and partner problems, unspecified
V61.11	Counseling for victim of spousal and partner abuse
V61.12	Counseling for perpetrator of spousal and partner abuse
V61.20	Counseling for parent-child problem
V61.21	Counseling for victim of child abuse
V61.22	Counseling for perpetrator of parental child abuse

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Code	Description
V61.23	Counseling for parent-biological child problem
V61.24	Counseling for parent-adopted child problem
V61.25	Counseling for parent (guardian)-foster child problem
V61.29	Other parent-child problems
V61.3	Problems with aged parents or in-laws
V61.41	Alcoholism in family
V61.42	Substance abuse in family
V61.49, V61.5-V61.9	Other specified and unspecified family problems
V62.21	Personal current military deployment status
V62.22	Personal history of return from military deployment
V62.29	Other occupational circumstances or maladjustment
V62.3-V62.84	Educational circumstances; other psychological or physical stress, not elsewhere classified; suicidal ideation
V62.85	Homicidal ideation
V62.89-V62.9	Other psychological or physical stress, not elsewhere classified; and unspecified psychosocial circumstances
V65.2	Person feigning illness
V65.3	Dietary surveillance and counseling
V65.40-V65.49	Other counseling, not elsewhere classified
V65.5	Person with feared complaint in whom no diagnosis was made
V65.8	Other reasons for seeking consultation
V65.9	Unspecified reason for consultation
V66.0-V66.9	Convalescence and palliative care
V67.3	Follow-up examination following psychotherapy
V67.4	Follow-up examination following treatment of healed fracture
V69.3	Problems related to lifestyle, gambling and betting
V71.01 - V71.09	Observation and evaluation for suspected conditions not found, mental
V72.0	Examination of eyes and vision
V72.11 - V72.12; V72.19	Encounter for hearing conservation and treatment; other examination of ears and hearing
V72.2	Dental examination
V72.40, V72.41, V72.42	Pregnancy examination or test; pregnancy unconfirmed; negative result; positive result.
V72.5	Radiological examination, not elsewhere classified
V72.60	Laboratory examination, unspecified
V72.61	Antibody response examination
V72.62	Laboratory examination ordered as part of a routine general medical examination
V72.63	Pre-procedural laboratory examination
V72.69	Other laboratory examination
V72.7	Diagnostic skin and sensitization tests
V72.9	Unspecified examination

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Code	Description
V76.10-V76.19	Special screening for malignant neoplasms, breast
V76.2	Special screening for malignant neoplasms, cervix
V76.44	Special screening for malignant neoplasms, other sites, prostate
V76.51	Special screening for malignant neoplasms, Intestine, colon
V77.1	Special screening for diabetes mellitus
V81.0-V81.2	Special screening for cardiovascular diseases

Documentation Required

Appropriate HCPCS/CPT code (s) must be used as described.

Sources of Information

Wintrobe's Clinical Hematology, G. Richard Lee et al editors, Lea & Febiger, 9th edition, Philadelphia PA 1993.

Hematology, Clinical and Laboratory Practice, R. Bick et al editors, Mosby-Year Book, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri, 1993.

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Williams Hematology, Beutler, et al., 5th edition, New York: McGraw-Hill, 1995.