

# ***Policies- TidalHealth Peninsula Regional***

## **Billing—CPT Coding**

It is your responsibility to determine correct CPT codes to use for billing. While this catalog lists CPT codes in an effort to provide some guidance, CPT codes listed only reflect our interpretation of CPT coding requirements and are not necessarily correct. Particularly, in the case of a test involving several component tests, this catalog attempts to provide a comprehensive list of CPT codes for all of the possible components of the test. Only a subset of component tests may be performed on your specimen. You should verify accuracy of codes listed. Where multiple codes are listed, you should select codes for tests actually performed on your specimen.

**TidalHealth Peninsula Regional ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR BILLING ERRORS DUE TO RELIANCE ON CPT CODES LISTED IN THIS CATALOG.** For further reference, please consult the CPT Coding Manual published by the American Medical Association. If you have any questions regarding use of a code, please contact your local Medicare carrier.

## **Proper Identification of Patients**

Before laboratory personnel can do any procedure on a patient, that patient must be properly identified. Laboratory policy is that a patient must have a hospital computer generated armband on 1 of his/her extremities which contains patient's full name and medical record number. For nursery patients, a handwritten armband is prepared and attached to infant at birth. For Outpatient Specimens collected not at a TidalHealth Outpatient Drawing Center, the specimen(s) must be labeled with the name and either the Social Security number or the date of birth.

## **Radioactive Specimens**

Specimens from patients receiving radioactive tracers or material should be labeled as such. Specimen is not routinely tested at TidalHealth for background radioactivity. This radioactivity may invalidate results of radioimmunoassays.

## **Research Projects**

Research projects will be approved on an individual basis. Please call your regional manager for details.

## **Special Chemistry and Reference Laboratory Testing**

Test not performed on site will be sent to TidalHealth approved reference laboratories. If special circumstances or special handling is desired, physician must contact a pathologist or special chemistry supervisor to arrange this. Tests which are performed at MML, our reference laboratory, must be received in Tidal main laboratory by 1400 Monday through Friday and 1000 on Saturday.

## **Test Result Call-Backs**

Results will be phoned to a client when requested from client (either on TidalHealth request form or from a phone call to TidalHealth from client).

## **Transfusion Service Specimens**

“The American Association of Blood Banks, in their Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services (27th edition, 2011), requires that blood specimens to be used in preparation of blood for transfusion: be labeled in presence of intended recipient, that specimen label contain 2 independent patient identifiers plus collection date, and that there be a mechanism to identify individual who drew blood. Specimen sent for transfusion-associated tests need to meet these requirements.” In addition, specimen must be labeled with the 4-digit Transfusion Services red armband number. The red armband should be attached to intended recipient prior to blood collection.