

Free Prostate Specific Antigen B2005.02

HCPCS Codes (Alphanumeric, CPT AMA)

Revision Effective Date: For service performed on or after 02/26/2009

Code	Description
84154	Prostrate specific antigen (PSA); free

ICD-9 CM Codes Covered by Medicare

Code	Description
790.93	Elevated Prostate Specific Antigen

Indications and Limitations of Coverage and/or Medical Necessity

Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) is an antigen isolated from prostatic tissue and produced in the epithelial cells lining the acini and ducts of the prostate. For at least 15 years, PSA has been known to be associated with cancer of the prostate and extraglandular metastases.

A limitation for use of PSA in screening or early detection of cancer has been false positive elevations of PSA in Benign Prostatic Hypertension (BPH), prostatitis, and prostatic ischemia or infarction. Using current assay technology, "normal" PSA is said to be < 3-4 ng/ml. Attempts to relate cancer-related PSA to PSA density using transrectal ultrasound, or to relate PSA to velocity of change with time have been helpful but flawed. PSA in the serum forms complexes with various factors including alpha1-antichymotrypsin. It has been shown that such PSA binding is significantly higher in carcinoma of the prostate than in benign prostatic conditions. For this reason, studies of the ratio of free PSA to total PSA have been made in patients with and without known prostate carcinoma. Where free PSA is 23-25%, there is good predictive value that the patient does not have prostate cancer; i.e., the higher the ratio of free PSA, the lower the risk of cancer. Since there is tendency to biopsy all prostates with PSA values above 3.5-4.0, using the "free" PSA to total PSA ratio could reduce negative prostate biopsies by 21-35%; therefore, the test may be helpful in deciding whether a biopsy should be done.

Payment may be made when reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

Percent "free" PSA is useful for the diagnosis of prostate cancer, when the total PSA is 3.5-10ng/ml and a prostate biopsy has not been done within the previous few weeks. Testing for percent free PSA is not indicated following known prostate cancer.