

## Instructions for Counting Tests

### General:

- Include total test volumes performed under the CLIA or Other Agency identification number
  - Include all complexity levels (i.e., waived, PPM, moderate, high)
- Do not count tests referred to another CLIA or Other Agency identification number for analysis
- Do not count tests not defined by AMA CPT codes as laboratory analytes (e.g., height, weight, EKG, hearing tests, vision screening tests)
- Do not count calculations (e.g., A/G ratio, MCH, T7, lipid risk ratios) or quality system required testing (e.g., quality control, quality assurance, proficiency testing)

### Counting Instructions by Specialty:

**Chemistry:** Each non-calculated analyte counts as one test. Each non-calculated analyte in a panel or profile counts as one test.

- Example: If a basic metabolic panel includes 8 non-calculated analytes and 3 calculated reported results = test count is 8
- Example: If the basic metabolic panel above and a total cholesterol are performed = test count is 9

**Urinalysis:** Microscopic and macroscopic examinations, each count as one test. Macroscopics (dipsticks) are counted as one test regardless of the number of reagent pads on the strip or if individual macroscopic results are ordered.

- Example: If a urinalysis includes a macroscopic and a microscopic exam = test count is 2
- Example: If a dipstick urine protein and glucose are completed = test count is 1

**Hematology:** Each **measured** individual analyte of a **complete blood count** or **flow cytometry** that is ordered and reported is counted separately. **WBC differential** is counted as one test. Do not count calculated tests (e.g., MCH, MCHC)

- Example: If a CBC without differential includes 6 measured analytes and 4 calculated analytes = test count is 6
- Example: If platelet, WBC count and WBC differential are ordered and reported = test count is 3

**Flow Cytometry:** Each measured analyte (e.g., T cells, B cells, CD4, etc.) that is ordered and reported count as one test.

**Microbiology:** Susceptibility testing is counted as one test per group of antibiotics used to determine sensitivity for one organism. Cultures are counted as one per test request from each specimen regardless of the extent of identification, number of organisms isolated, and number of tests/procedures required for identification. Each gram stain or acid-fast bacteria (AFB) smear requested on a primary source is counted as one. Each antigen specific identification ordered and completed on a primary source is counted as one test. For parasitology, the direct smear and the concentration and prepared slide are counted as one test.

- Example: If a urine culture is ordered, 2 pathogenic organisms identified, and 2 sensitivities reported = test count is 3
- Example: if a sputum specimen has a routine bacteriology culture and gram stain, a mycology test, and an AFB smear and AFB culture ordered and resulted = test count is 5. If this same specimen also has one organism susceptibility test completed = test count is 6
- Example: If a stool specimen has a stool culture, giardia antigen test and Ova and Parasite test ordered and completed = test count is 3

**Immunology:** Each individual analyte counts as one test. Allergen testing should be counted as one test per individual allergen even when ordered and completed as an allergen panel/profile. Do not count calculations that are reported.

- Example: If a mono test and a pediatric allergen panel (includes 6 allergens) are ordered and completed = test count is 7

**Immunohematology:** Each ABO, Rh, antibody screen, compatibility/crossmatch or antibody identification is counted as one test.

- Example: If a type & screen (ABO, Rh, antibody screen) is ordered and completed = test count is 3
- Example: If a type & crossmatch for 2 units (ABO, Rh, antibody screen, 2 units crossmatched) = test count is 5

**Histocompatibility:** Each HLA typing (including disease associated antigens) is counted as one test. Each HLA antibody screen is counted as one test. Each HLA crossmatch is counted as one test.

- Example: If a B-cell, a T-cell, and an auto-crossmatch between the same donor and recipient pair are ordered and completed = test count is 3

**Genetic Tests:** For clinical cytogenetic tests, the number of tests is determined by the number of specimen types processed on each patient e.g., a bone marrow and a venous blood specimen received on one patient is counted as two tests. NOTE: For all other genetic tests, the number of tests is determined by the number of results reported in the final report.

**Histopathology:** Each block (not slide) is counted as one test. Autopsy services are not included. For those laboratories that perform special stains on histology slides, the test volume is determined by adding the number of special stains performed on slides to the total number of specimen blocks prepared by the laboratory.

**Cytology:** For manual gynecologic and non-gynecologic cytology, each slide (not case) is counted as one test.

If you need additional information concerning counting tests, please contact the program administrator.