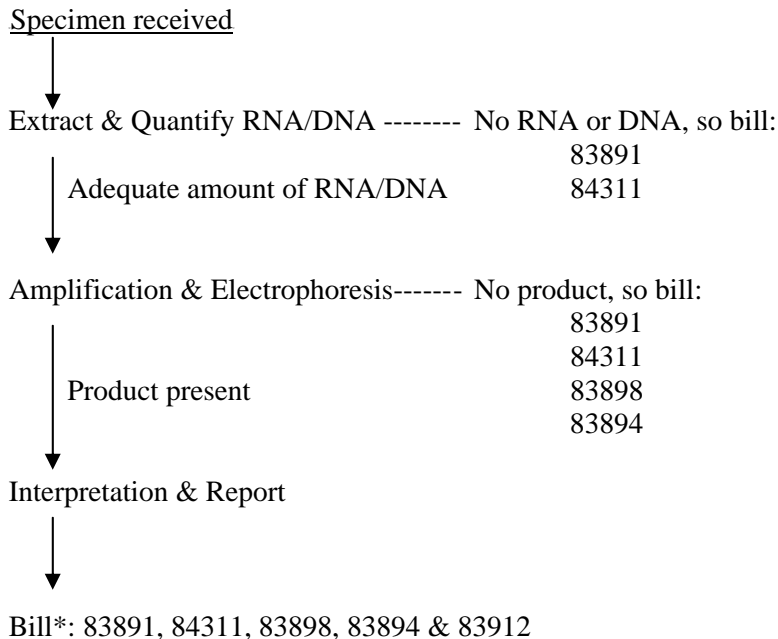


The Department of Laboratory Medicine is revising the billing process for Molecular Hematopathology testing. The tests appear in the Guide to Laboratory Testing - 2005, in the following order:

- B Cell Clonality Analysis by PCR (BCPCR)
- BCL1 Translocation Analysis by PCR [t(11;14)] (B1PCR)
- BCL2 Translocation Analysis by PCR [t(14;18)] (B2PCR)
- BCR/ABL Translocation by PCR [t(9;22)] (CMLRNA)
- BCR/ABL Translocation by PCR [t(9;22)], Quantitative (CMLQ)
- T Cell Clonality Analysis by PCR (TCPCR)

When we receive a specimen for PCR analysis, we will extract and quantify the RNA or DNA. If we do not obtain quantifiable RNA or DNA, we will stop there and bill only for the extraction and quantification. If we have RNA or DNA we will proceed with the amplification by PCR and electrophoresis. If the amplification is successful, the electrophoresis will allow us to see the product. If we do not see any product from our amplification by PCR, we will test the RNA or DNA using a control PCR amplification and electrophoresis to confirm amplifiability. If the RNA or DNA is not amplifiable, we will only bill for the extraction, quantification, amplification, and electrophoresis. There will be no charge for interpretation and report. If the RNA or DNA is amplifiable we will issue a report and bill for the entire test ordered including a charge for Interpretation and Report, see flow chart below.

Two tests involve nested PCR, B1PCR and CMLRNA. These tests have two amplification steps and therefore will have two charges for amplification. CMLQ and CMLRNA include a reverse transcriptase step in which the RNA is transcribed into cDNA and will include a charge for that step. CMLQ and CMLRNA are also multiplex amplification reactions and we will bill a different CPT code for the amplification, which is 83901. CMLQ is also monitored during the PCR and does not need an electrophoresis step and therefore has no electrophoresis step or charge. If we have extracted and quantified DNA for another test, extra testing can be done as an add-on and we will only bill for the additional amplification/amplifications and electrophoresis.



*Miscellaneous charges:

- Reverse transcriptase step for CMLQ & CMLRNA, add: 83902
- Extra amplification step for B1PCR & CMLRNA, add another: 83898
- CMLQ and CMLRNA amplification step: 83901
- CMLQ has no electrophoresis step so no 83894 CPT charge.

Call Molecular Hematopathology at (206) 598-6215 if you have any questions.