



**Position Statement on Pathology Billing**  
**(Approved by the Board of Directors May 20, 2006;**  
**Amended by the Board of Directors on May 8, 2007;**  
**Amended by the Board of Directors on August 5, 2007**  
**Amended by the Board of Directors on February 5, 2011)**

Dermatologists, based on their education and training, should be permitted to interpret pathology specimens. No single specialty has exclusive rights to utilize and bill for individual CPT codes.

When dermatologists choose to send pathology specimens out for interpretation, they should be able to choose the laboratory and/or dermatopathologist they believe is best for their patients.

Dermatologists are entitled to fair compensation for their own dermatopathology services.

Dermatologists should not charge for dermatopathology services rendered by other providers except in situations where:

1. The patient is made aware of the charge by an outside laboratory or consultant performing the service; and
2. Any added charge is reasonable and commensurate with professional or administrative services personally rendered by the dermatologist and/or his/her practice and does not violate federal or state laws.

CPT Codes 88304 and 88305 represent a particular service personally performed by a physician. As such, dermatologists purchasing dermatopathology services from an outside source should not use codes 88304 or 88305 for billing purposes without the modifier -90 as an indication that the service was provided by an outside laboratory. Further, the outside laboratory should be appropriately indicated on the claim form.

Dermatologists and their staff need to be aware of, and comply with, the full scope of complex federal and state laws and regulations governing billing of pathology laboratory services.

*This Position Statement is intended to offer physicians guiding principles regarding anatomic pathology billing practices. This Position Statement is not intended to establish a legal standard of care.*