

# JM Palmetto – Assays for Vitamins and Metabolic Function

CPT: 82180 (Ascorbic acid), 84252 (B-2), 84425 (B-1), 84446 (E), 84590 (A), 84591 (NOS), 84597 (K)

## CMS Policy for Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia

Local policies are determined by the performing test location. This is determined by the state in which your performing laboratory resides and where your testing is commonly performed.

### Coverage Indications, Limitations, and/or Medical Necessity

Medicare considers vitamin assay panels (more than one vitamin assay) a screening procedure and therefore, non-covered. Similarly, assays for micronutrient testing for nutritional deficiencies that include multiple tests for vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and various metabolic functions are never necessary. Medicare reimburses for covered clinical laboratory studies that are reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of an illness. Many vitamin deficiency problems can be determined from a comprehensive history and physical examination. Any diagnostic evaluation should be targeted at the specific vitamin deficiency suspected and not a general screen.

Most vitamin deficiencies are nutritional in origin and may be corrected with supplemented vitamins. Most vitamin deficiencies are suggested by specific clinical findings. The presence of those specific clinical findings may prompt laboratory testing for evidence of a deficiency of that specific vitamin. Certain other clinical states may also lead to vitamin deficiencies (malabsorption syndromes, etc.).

### Limitations

For Medicare beneficiaries, screening tests are governed by statute. Vitamin testing may not be used for routine screening.

Once a beneficiary has been shown to be vitamin deficient, further testing is medically necessary only to ensure adequate replacement has been accomplished. Thereafter, annual testing may be appropriate depending upon the indication and other mitigating factors.

Assays of selenium (84255), functional intracellular analysis (84999) or total antioxidant function (84999) are non-covered services. Assays of vitamin testing, not otherwise classified (84591), are not covered since all clinically relevant vitamins have specific assays.

The following are pertinent laboratory tests for which frequency limitations will be specified [note this should be all the CPT codes in the list below, except for those that are non-covered]:

- Vitamins and metabolic function assays: 25-OH Vitamin D-3, Carnitine, Vitamin B-12, Folic Acid (Serum), Homocystine, Vitamin B-6, Vitamin B-2, Vitamin B-1, Vitamin E, Fibrinogen, High-Sensitivity C-Reactive Protein and Lipoprotein-associated phospholipase A<sub>2</sub> (Lp-PLA<sub>2</sub>); Vitamin A; Vitamin K; and Ascorbic acid.
- Additional inclusion of Vitamin D (with limited coverage not otherwise specified).

### Utilization Guidelines

**Medicare will not cover more than one test per year, per beneficiary except as noted below.**

Certain tests may exceed the stated frequencies, when accompanied by a diagnosis fitting the exception description for exceeding the once per annum maximum.

- Carnitine (82379) may be tested **up to three times per year** to account for baseline assay followed by evaluations at six-month increments (*adapted from "Levocarnitine" NCD*).
- Vitamin B-12 (82607) and folate (82746) can be tested **up to four times per year** for malabsorption syndromes (K90.9) or deficiency disorders (D81.818, D81.819, E53.8, D51.0, D51.1, D51.2, D51.3, D51.8, D51.9, D52.0, D52.1, D52.8 and D52.9).
- Vitamin B-12 (82607) can only be tested **more frequently than four times per year** for postsurgical malabsorption (K91.2).
- 25-OH Vitamin D-3 (82306) may be tested **up to four times per year** for Vitamin D deficiencies (E55.0, M83.0, M83.1, M83.2, M83.3, M83.4, M83.5, M83.8, M83.9, E55.9).
- Fibrinogen, antigen (85385) may be tested **up to four times per year** for low platelet diagnoses (D47.3, D69.3, D69.41, D69.42, D69.59 and D69.6).
- Medicare will not cover more than **two** high-sensitivity C-reactive protein (86141) tests per year per beneficiary. This allows for baseline testing and six-month follow-up tests for statin therapeutic management.
- The same frequency edit (two tests per year per beneficiary) will be applied to Lipoprotein-associated phospholipase A<sub>2</sub> (Lp-PLA<sub>2</sub>) used in the management of patients with coronary artery disease.
- Lymphocyte transformation assays (86353) will not be subjected to any frequency edits.

Visit [QuestDiagnostics.com/MLCP](http://QuestDiagnostics.com/MLCP) to view current limited coverage tests, reference guides, and policy information.

To view the complete policy and the full list of medically supportive codes, please refer to the CMS website reference

[www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov)

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There is a frequency associated with this test. Please refer to the Limitations or Utilization Guidelines section on previous page(s).

The ICD10 codes listed below are the top diagnosis codes currently utilized by ordering physicians for the limited coverage test highlighted above that are also listed as medically supportive under Medicare’s limited coverage policy. **If you are ordering this test for diagnostic reasons that are not covered under Medicare policy, an Advance Beneficiary Notice form is required.**

**\*Note—Bolded diagnoses below have the highest utilization**

Code	Description
N/A	N/A

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**Disclaimer:**

This diagnosis code reference guide is provided as an aid to physicians and office staff in determining when an ABN (Advance Beneficiary Notice) is necessary. Diagnosis codes must be applicable to the patient’s symptoms or conditions and must be consistent with documentation in the patient’s medical record. Quest Diagnostics does not recommend any diagnosis codes and will only submit diagnosis information provided to us by the ordering physician or his/her designated staff. The CPT codes provided are based on AMA guidelines and are for informational purposes only. CPT coding is the sole responsibility of the billing party. Please direct any questions regarding coding to the payer being billed.

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