

Medi-Cal Reminder: QuantiFERON® TB Gold

Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRAs)

According to the current Medi-Cal Provider Manual, Interferon Gamma Release Assays, (IGRAs), also known as QuantiFERON® TB Gold®, are reimbursable with CPT-4 code 86480 (tuberculosis test, cell mediated immunity antigen response measurement; gamma interferon) or CPT-4 code 86481 (tuberculosis test, enumeration of gamma interferon-producing T-cells in cell suspension) for the diagnosis of latent tuberculosis infection and tuberculosis disease.

The following policy is based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's "Updated Guidelines for Using Interferon Gamma Release Assays to Detect *Mycobacterium Tuberculosis* Infection – United States, 2010."

IGRAs may be used in all circumstances in which the tuberculin skin test is currently used, including:

- Contact investigations
- Populations with low compliance rates for returning to have tuberculin skin tests read
- Evaluation of patients who have received BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Guerin) (as a vaccine or for cancer therapy)
- Sequential-testing programs for infection control (for example, those for healthcare workers)

This information is reflected on page 3 of the Pathology: Immunology section of the Medi-Cal Provider Manual (path immune 3). For additional information on Medi-Cal's coverage policies, visit www.medi-cal.ca.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact your Quest Diagnostics sales representative.

Disclaimer: 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.

The above information serves as a reference tool for laboratory services and is not comprehensive. The ordering provider is responsible for determining the appropriate diagnosis codes for each patient. Diagnosis codes must be applicable to the patient's symptoms or conditions and must be consistent with documentation in the patient's medical record.