

## **190.34 - Fecal Occult Blood Test**

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### **Description**

The Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) detects the presence of trace amounts of blood in stool. The procedure is performed by testing one or several small samples of one, two or three different stool specimens.

This test may be performed with or without evidence of iron deficiency anemia, which may be related to gastrointestinal blood loss. The range of causes for blood loss include inflammatory causes, including acid-peptic disease, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug use, hiatal hernia, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, gastroenteritis, and colon ulcers. It is also seen with infectious causes, including hookworm, strongyloides, ascariasis, tuberculosis, and enteroamebiasis. Vascular causes include angiodysplasia, hemangiomas, varices, blue rubber bleb nevus syndrome, and watermelon stomach. Tumors and neoplastic causes include lymphoma, leiomyosarcoma, lipomas, adenocarcinoma and primary and secondary metastases to the GI tract. Drugs such as nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs also cause bleeding. There are extra gastrointestinal causes such as hemoptysis, epistaxis, and oropharyngeal bleeding. Artifactual causes include hematuria, and menstrual bleeding. In addition, there may be other causes such as coagulopathies, gastrostomy tubes or other appliances, factitial causes, and long distance running.

Three basic types of fecal hemoglobin assays exist, each directed at a different component of the hemoglobin molecule.

1. Immunoassays recognize antigenic sites on the globin portion and are least affected by diet or proximal gut bleeding, but the antigen may be destroyed by fecal flora.
2. The heme-porphyrin assay measures heme-derived porphyrin and is least influenced by enterocolic metabolism or fecal storage. This assay does not discriminate dietary from endogenous heme. The capacity to detect proximal gut bleeding reduces its specificity for colorectal cancer screening but makes it more useful for evaluating overall GI bleeding in case finding for iron deficiency anemia.
3. The guaiac-based test is the most widely used. It requires the peroxidase activity of an intact heme moiety to be reactive. Positivity rates fall with storage. Fecal hydration such as adding a drop of water increases the test reactivity but also increases false positivity.

Of these three tests, the guaiac-based test is the most sensitive for detecting lower bowel bleeding. Because of this sensitivity, it is advisable, when it is used for screening, to defer the guaiac-based test if other studies of the colon are performed prior to the test. Similarly, this test's sensitivity may result in a false positive if the patient has recently ingested meat. Both of these cautions are appropriate when the test is used for screening, but when appropriate indications are present, the test should be done despite its limitations.



**Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCD)  
Coding Policy Manual and Change Report (ICD-10-CM)**

**HCPCS Codes (Alphanumeric, CPT® AMA)**

Code	Description
82272	Blood, occult, by peroxidase activity (e.g., guaiac), qualitative, feces, 1-3 simultaneous determinations, performed for other than colorectal neoplasm screening

**ICD-10-CM Codes Covered by Medicare Program**

The ICD-10-CM codes in the table below can be viewed on CMS' website as part of Downloads: Lab Code List, at  
<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coverage/CoverageGenInfo/LabNCDsICD10.html>

Code	Description
A02.0	Salmonella enteritis
A02.1	Salmonella sepsis
A03.0	Shigellosis due to Shigella dysenteriae
A03.1	Shigellosis due to Shigella flexneri
A03.2	Shigellosis due to Shigella boydii
A03.3	Shigellosis due to Shigella sonnei
A03.8	Other shigellosis
A03.9	Shigellosis, unspecified
A04.5	Campylobacter enteritis
A04.6	Enteritis due to Yersinia enterocolitica
A04.71	Enterocolitis due to Clostridium difficile, recurrent
A04.72	Enterocolitis due to Clostridium difficile, not specified as recurrent
A04.8	Other specified bacterial intestinal infections
A05.0	Foodborne staphylococcal intoxication
A05.1	Botulism food poisoning
A05.2	Foodborne Clostridium perfringens [Clostridium welchii] intoxication
A05.3	Foodborne Vibrio parahaemolyticus intoxication
A05.4	Foodborne Bacillus cereus intoxication
A05.5	Foodborne Vibrio vulnificus intoxication
A05.8	Other specified bacterial foodborne intoxications
A05.9	Bacterial foodborne intoxication, unspecified
A06.0	Acute amebic dysentery
A06.1	Chronic intestinal amebiasis
A06.2	Amebic nondysenteric colitis



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Code	Description
A06.3	Ameboma of intestine
A06.4	Amebic liver abscess
A06.5	Amebic lung abscess
A06.6	Amebic brain abscess
A06.7	Cutaneous amebiasis
A06.81	Amebic cystitis
A06.82	Other amebic genitourinary infections
A06.89	Other amebic infections
A06.9	Amebiasis, unspecified
A07.0	Balantidiasis
A07.1	Giardiasis [lambliasis]
A07.2	Cryptosporidiosis
A07.3	Isosporiasis
A07.4	Cyclosporiasis
A07.8	Other specified protozoal intestinal diseases
A07.9	Protozoal intestinal disease, unspecified
A09	Infectious gastroenteritis and colitis, unspecified
A18.31	Tuberculous peritonitis
A18.32	Tuberculous enteritis
A18.39	Retroperitoneal tuberculosis
A18.83	Tuberculosis of digestive tract organs, not elsewhere classified
A52.74	Syphilis of liver and other viscera
A54.00	Gonococcal infection of lower genitourinary tract, unspecified
A54.02	Gonococcal vulvovaginitis, unspecified
A54.09	Other gonococcal infection of lower genitourinary tract
A54.1	Gonococcal infection of lower genitourinary tract with periurethral and accessory gland abscess
A54.6	Gonococcal infection of anus and rectum
A54.83	Gonococcal heart infection
B25.2	Cytomegaloviral pancreatitis
B68.0	Taenia solium taeniasis
B68.1	Taenia saginata taeniasis
B68.9	Taeniasis, unspecified
B69.0	Cysticercosis of central nervous system

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Code	Description
B69.1	Cysticercosis of eye
B69.81	Myositis in cysticercosis
B69.89	Cysticercosis of other sites
B69.9	Cysticercosis, unspecified
B70.0	Diphyllobothriasis
B70.1	Sparganosis
B71.0	Hymenolepiasis
B71.1	Dipylidiasis
B71.8	Other specified cestode infections
B71.9	Cestode infection, unspecified
B75	Trichinellosis
B77.0	Ascariasis with intestinal complications
B77.81	Ascariasis pneumonia
B77.89	Ascariasis with other complications
B77.9	Ascariasis, unspecified
B78.0	Intestinal strongyloidiasis
B78.7	Disseminated strongyloidiasis
B78.9	Strongyloidiasis, unspecified
B79	Trichuriasis
B80	Enterobiasis
B81.0	Anisakiasis
B81.1	Intestinal capillariasis
B81.2	Trichostrongyliasis
B81.3	Intestinal angiostrongyliasis
B81.4	Mixed intestinal helminthiasis
B81.8	Other specified intestinal helminthiasis
B82.0	Intestinal helminthiasis, unspecified
B92	Sequelae of leprosy
B94.2	Sequelae of viral hepatitis
B94.8	Sequelae of other specified infectious and parasitic diseases
B94.9	Sequelae of unspecified infectious and parasitic disease
C15.3	Malignant neoplasm of upper third of esophagus
C15.4	Malignant neoplasm of middle third of esophagus
C15.5	Malignant neoplasm of lower third of esophagus

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Code	Description
C15.8	Malignant neoplasm of overlapping sites of esophagus
C15.9	Malignant neoplasm of esophagus, unspecified
C16.0	Malignant neoplasm of cardia
C16.1	Malignant neoplasm of fundus of stomach
C16.2	Malignant neoplasm of body of stomach
C16.3	Malignant neoplasm of pyloric antrum
C16.4	Malignant neoplasm of pylorus
C16.5	Malignant neoplasm of lesser curvature of stomach, unspecified
C16.6	Malignant neoplasm of greater curvature of stomach, unspecified
C16.8	Malignant neoplasm of overlapping sites of stomach
C16.9	Malignant neoplasm of stomach, unspecified
C17.0	Malignant neoplasm of duodenum
C17.1	Malignant neoplasm of jejunum
C17.2	Malignant neoplasm of ileum
C17.3	Meckel's diverticulum, malignant
C17.8	Malignant neoplasm of overlapping sites of small intestine
C17.9	Malignant neoplasm of small intestine, unspecified
C18.0	Malignant neoplasm of cecum
C18.1	Malignant neoplasm of appendix
C18.2	Malignant neoplasm of ascending colon
C18.3	Malignant neoplasm of hepatic flexure
C18.4	Malignant neoplasm of transverse colon
C18.5	Malignant neoplasm of splenic flexure
C18.6	Malignant neoplasm of descending colon
C18.7	Malignant neoplasm of sigmoid colon
C18.8	Malignant neoplasm of overlapping sites of colon
C18.9	Malignant neoplasm of colon, unspecified
C19	Malignant neoplasm of rectosigmoid junction
C20	Malignant neoplasm of rectum
C21.0	Malignant neoplasm of anus, unspecified
C21.1	Malignant neoplasm of anal canal
C21.2	Malignant neoplasm of cloacogenic zone
C21.8	Malignant neoplasm of overlapping sites of rectum, anus and anal canal
C22.0	Liver cell carcinoma

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