Test Name:	Mycobacterial Culture and Acid-Fast Bacilli (AFB) Smear from Primary Specimen
Test Methodology:	Digestion and decontamination, microscopic examination of fluorochrome smear, continuous monitoring of conventional culture and broth culture system, and identification of AFB-positive cultures.
Test to be Performed:	AFB Culture & ID
CPT:	87015 87206 87116 83789 Other CPT for identifying isolates
Reflex Testing Criteria:	If acid-fast bacilli are found in the initial smear, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex detection and rifampin resistance by PCR (MTB NAAT) will be performed. If *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex is isolated from a new patient, drug susceptibility testing will be performed, and an isolate will be sent for TB genotyping per Title 17.
Pre-Approval Required:	None
Accepted Specimens:	Respiratory specimens (sputum, bronchial lavage, bronchial washing, transtracheal aspirate, etc.) collected in a sterile, leak-proof container. 5 – 10 mL recommended; 2 mL minimum. Non-respiratory specimens: Body fluids (abdominal/peritoneal, pericardial, synovial) 5 – 10 mL recommended; 2 mL minimum collected in a sterile, leak-proof container. Stool or tissue (2 grams recommended; 1 gram minimum) in sterile containers without preservatives or fixatives. Urine (40 mL recommended; 10 – 15 mL minimum) in sterile, leak-proof container. Gastric lavage (5 – 10 mL recommended; 15 mL maximum) in a sterile, leak-proof container.
Specimen Stability:	**For all specimen types**, other than those specified below: • Room temperature: ≤1 hour. If transport is delayed more than 1 hour, refrigerate specimen. • Refrigerated (2 – 8 °C): within 72 hours of collection. • Frozen: Not recommended **For stool** • Room temperature: ≤1 hour. If transport is delayed more than 1 hour, refrigerate specimen. • Refrigerated (2 – 8 °C): within 24 hours of collection • Frozen: Not recommended **For CSF** • Room temperature (15-30°C) within 24 hours; **do not refrigerate or freeze.**

	F**or Gastric lavage** • Room temperature; if delayed > 4 hours, neutralize with 100 mg sodium bicarbonate within 1 hour of collection.; **do not refrigerate or freeze.**
Storage/Transport Conditions:	Refrigerated (2 – 8 °C). Specimens should be submitted as soon as possible after collection. Ship with cold or ice packs using appropriate DOT/IATA approved shipping procedures.
Turnaround Time:	AFB Smear: 24 hours Negative culture: 6 weeks (42 days) Positive culture: 6 weeks (42 days); Preliminary reports will be issued if acid-fast bacilli is found by MGIT system or in culture.
Reference Range:	No acid-fast bacilli found
Comments:	For questions regarding submissions, please contact the lab for further information.