

# cpt code for mononucleosis test

**cpt code for mononucleosis test** is an essential topic for healthcare providers, medical coders, and billing professionals involved in diagnosing infectious diseases. Mononucleosis, often called "mono," is a viral infection primarily caused by the Epstein-Barr virus (EBV). Proper coding of diagnostic tests ensures accurate billing, compliance with insurance requirements, and optimal reimbursement. This article explores the specific CPT (Current Procedural Terminology) codes used for mononucleosis testing, highlighting the relevant codes, their descriptions, and guidelines for use. Additionally, it addresses the clinical considerations surrounding mononucleosis diagnosis and the importance of appropriate test selection. Understanding the distinctions between various testing methods and their associated CPT codes is crucial for efficient healthcare operations. The following sections provide a detailed overview of CPT coding for mononucleosis tests, how to select the correct codes, and related billing tips to avoid common errors.

- Understanding Mononucleosis and Its Diagnostic Tests
- CPT Codes for Mononucleosis Tests
- Billing and Coding Guidelines for Mononucleosis Testing
- Common Clinical Scenarios and Coding Examples
- Challenges and Best Practices in Coding Mononucleosis Tests

## Understanding Mononucleosis and Its Diagnostic Tests

Mononucleosis is an infectious disease characterized by symptoms such as fever, sore throat, swollen lymph nodes, and fatigue. It is most commonly caused by the Epstein-Barr virus, which belongs to the herpesvirus family. Accurate diagnosis is necessary to distinguish mononucleosis from other illnesses with similar presentations, such as streptococcal pharyngitis or cytomegalovirus infections.

## Clinical Features of Mononucleosis

The clinical presentation of mononucleosis typically includes:

- Fever and malaise
- Sore throat and tonsillar enlargement
- Swollen cervical lymph nodes
- Splenomegaly or hepatomegaly in some cases
- Fatigue lasting several weeks

Due to overlapping symptoms with other conditions, laboratory testing is critical for confirming the diagnosis.

## **Diagnostic Tests for Mononucleosis**

Laboratory tests to detect mononucleosis infection generally focus on identifying antibodies or antigens related to the Epstein-Barr virus or heterophile antibodies. Common diagnostic methods include:

- Heterophile antibody test (Monospot test)
- EBV-specific antibody tests (e.g., EBV viral capsid antigen, EBV nuclear antigen)
- Complete blood count (CBC) with differential

The choice of test affects which CPT code is applicable for billing purposes.

## **CPT Codes for Mononucleosis Tests**

The CPT coding system provides standardized codes to describe medical procedures and services, including laboratory tests. For mononucleosis testing, several CPT codes are relevant depending on the specific test performed.

### **Heterophile Antibody Test CPT Code**

The heterophile antibody test, commonly known as the Monospot test, is a rapid screening test for infectious mononucleosis. The CPT code for this test

is:

- **86762** - Antibody; heterophile (e.g., infectious mononucleosis)

This code is used when the provider orders a qualitative heterophile antibody test to detect antibodies indicative of mononucleosis infection.

## **Epstein-Barr Virus Antibody Panel CPT Codes**

When more detailed EBV serology is required, an antibody panel may be performed to identify specific viral antigens. The relevant CPT codes include:

- **86664** - Epstein-Barr virus; antibody, viral capsid antigen, IgG
- **86665** - Epstein-Barr virus; antibody, viral capsid antigen, IgM
- **86666** - Epstein-Barr virus; antibody, nuclear antigen

These tests provide a comprehensive view of the patient's immune response to EBV infection, aiding in diagnosis and staging.

## **Other Related Laboratory CPT Codes**

Additional laboratory tests occasionally utilized in the evaluation of suspected mononucleosis include:

- **85025** - Blood count, automated (CBC) with differential
- **86328** - Immunoassay for viral antigen detection

These codes may be billed in conjunction with mononucleosis-specific tests for a thorough clinical assessment.

# Billing and Coding Guidelines for Mononucleosis Testing

Proper billing and coding practices are essential to ensure compliance, accurate reimbursement, and avoidance of claim denials related to mononucleosis testing. Adhering to coding guidelines is imperative for healthcare providers and coders.

## Selection of the Appropriate CPT Code

Choosing the correct CPT code depends on the type of test performed. The heterophile antibody test (86762) is generally the first-line screening test. If confirmatory or more detailed EBV antibody testing is performed, the appropriate 86664, 86665, or 86666 codes should be used.

It is important not to report both the heterophile antibody test and EBV antibody panels for the same date of service unless both tests were medically necessary and performed.

## Medical Necessity and Documentation

Medical necessity must be clearly documented in the patient's medical record to support the ordered mononucleosis tests. Documentation should include the clinical indications such as symptoms consistent with mononucleosis or exposure history.

## ICD-10 Codes for Mononucleosis

Accurate diagnosis coding also supports CPT claims. Common ICD-10 codes used in conjunction with mononucleosis testing include:

- **B27.90** - Infectious mononucleosis, unspecified
- **B27.01** - Infectious mononucleosis due to Epstein-Barr virus
- **B27.89** - Other infectious mononucleosis

Linking CPT codes with appropriate ICD-10 diagnosis codes facilitates proper claim adjudication.

# Common Clinical Scenarios and Coding Examples

Understanding how to apply CPT codes correctly in real-world clinical scenarios enhances coding accuracy and reimbursement efficiency.

## Scenario 1: Initial Screening with Heterophile Antibody Test

A patient presents with fever, sore throat, and swollen lymph nodes. The clinician orders a rapid heterophile antibody test to screen for mononucleosis. The correct CPT code to bill is **86762**.

## Scenario 2: Confirmatory EBV Antibody Panel

If the heterophile antibody test is negative but clinical suspicion remains high, an EBV antibody panel is ordered. The provider should bill the specific antibody tests performed, for example:

- **86664** for EBV viral capsid antigen IgG
- **86665** for EBV viral capsid antigen IgM
- **86666** for EBV nuclear antigen antibody

## Scenario 3: Combined Testing with CBC

When a CBC is performed alongside mononucleosis testing to evaluate lymphocytosis, the provider may also bill CPT code **85025** along with the mononucleosis test codes.

## Challenges and Best Practices in Coding Mononucleosis Tests

Coding for mononucleosis testing can present challenges due to overlapping test options, payer policies, and documentation requirements. Awareness of these challenges and adherence to best practices promotes accurate coding.

## Common Coding Challenges

- Confusion between heterophile antibody and EBV-specific antibody tests
- Incorrect use of codes when multiple tests are performed on the same day
- Lack of sufficient documentation to justify testing
- Failure to link appropriate diagnosis codes with CPT codes

## Best Practices for Accurate Coding

- Verify the exact test performed before selecting the CPT code
- Ensure documentation supports medical necessity for the test ordered
- Use specific EBV antibody codes when applicable rather than the general heterophile antibody code
- Coordinate coding with payer policies to confirm coverage and billing rules
- Maintain updated knowledge of CPT code revisions related to laboratory testing

Implementing these best practices reduces claim denials and improves coding efficiency for mononucleosis testing services.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the CPT code for a mononucleosis test?

The CPT code for a mononucleosis test, specifically the Monospot test, is 86308.

### Are there different CPT codes for various types of mononucleosis tests?

Yes, the Monospot test is coded as 86308, while other antibody tests for Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) such as VCA IgM or EBNA may have different CPT codes

like 86664 or 86665.

## **Is CPT code 86308 used for both screening and diagnostic mononucleosis tests?**

CPT code 86308 is primarily used for the qualitative detection of heterophile antibodies for mononucleosis, which can be for screening or diagnostic purposes.

## **Can the mononucleosis test be billed under a general infectious agent antibody detection code?**

Yes, if a specific mononucleosis CPT code is not applicable, related antibody detection codes such as 86664 (Epstein-Barr virus antibody) may be used depending on the test performed.

## **What ICD-10 codes should accompany the CPT code for mononucleosis testing?**

Common ICD-10 codes include B27.90 (Infectious mononucleosis, unspecified) or other relevant codes indicating suspected mononucleosis or related symptoms.

## **Is the Monospot test (CPT 86308) considered a rapid test for mononucleosis?**

Yes, the Monospot test (CPT 86308) is a rapid slide test used to detect heterophile antibodies for infectious mononucleosis.

## **Are there any modifiers required when billing the CPT code for a mononucleosis test?**

Modifiers are typically not required for CPT code 86308 unless multiple tests are performed on the same day or other special circumstances apply.

## **Additional Resources**

### *1. Understanding CPT Codes for Infectious Disease Testing*

This book offers a comprehensive overview of CPT codes related to infectious disease diagnostics, including mononucleosis testing. It explains the coding system, guidelines for accurate billing, and common pitfalls to avoid. Healthcare professionals and medical coders will find practical tips for ensuring compliance and maximizing reimbursement.

### *2. Medical Coding Essentials: Focus on Laboratory Tests*

Designed for both beginners and experienced coders, this guide covers essential CPT codes for various lab tests, with a dedicated section on

mononucleosis tests. The book breaks down complex coding rules into easy-to-understand language, enhancing accuracy in medical billing for diagnostic services.

### *3. CPT Coding for Viral Infection Diagnostics*

This specialized resource delves into CPT codes used for diagnosing viral infections, including Epstein-Barr virus and mononucleosis. It includes case studies, coding examples, and updates on the latest coding changes, helping coders stay current and proficient in their work.

### *4. Billing and Coding Mononucleosis Tests: A Practical Guide*

Focused exclusively on billing and coding for mononucleosis testing, this guide provides detailed explanations of relevant CPT codes, modifiers, and documentation requirements. It also covers insurance considerations and typical reimbursement scenarios to assist medical billing professionals.

### *5. Clinical Laboratory Coding Handbook*

This handbook is an authoritative resource for coding laboratory tests, including serologic and molecular tests for mononucleosis. It features coding tips, regulatory updates, and coding compliance strategies to improve accuracy and reduce claim denials.

### *6. Essential CPT Coding for Infectious Disease Labs*

A practical manual tailored to infectious disease laboratory testing, this book highlights CPT codes for tests like the mononucleosis spot test and EBV antibody panels. It emphasizes proper code selection, documentation, and billing protocols to enhance operational efficiency.

### *7. The ICD and CPT Coding Companion for Viral Illnesses*

This companion guide integrates ICD diagnosis codes with CPT procedure codes relevant to viral illnesses, such as mononucleosis. It helps coders align clinical information with billing requirements, ensuring comprehensive and compliant medical coding.

### *8. Advanced Medical Coding Techniques for Laboratory Services*

Targeting advanced coders, this book explores complex coding scenarios in laboratory testing, including multiplex and viral infection assays. It provides in-depth analysis of CPT codes for mononucleosis tests, coding audits, and strategies for resolving coding challenges.

### *9. Healthcare Coding and Reimbursement for Infectious Disease Tests*

This resource covers the entire process from coding to reimbursement for infectious disease tests like mononucleosis. It includes payer-specific guidelines, compliance tips, and real-world examples to help healthcare providers optimize revenue cycles while maintaining coding integrity.

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**cpt code for mononucleosis test: The Next Step: Advanced Medical Coding and Auditing, 2016 Edition** Carol J. Buck, 2015-12-22 Mastering advanced medical coding skills is easier with Carol J. Buck's proven, step-by-step method! The Next Step: Advanced Medical Coding and Auditing, 2016 Edition uses real-world patient cases to explain coding for services such as medical visits, diagnostic testing and interpretation, treatments, surgeries, and anesthesia. Hands-on practice with physician documentation helps you take the next step in coding proficiency. With this guide from coding author and educator Carol J. Buck, you will learn to confidently pull the right information from medical documents, select the right codes, determine the correct sequencing of those codes, and then properly audit cases. UNIQUE! Evaluation and Management (E/M) audit forms include clear coding instructions to help reduce errors in determining the correct level of service. Real-world patient cases (cleared of any patient identifiers) simulate the first year of coding on-the-job by using actual medical records. More than 185 full-color illustrations depict and clarify advanced coding concepts. From the Trenches boxes highlight the real-life experiences of professional medical coders and include photographs, quotes, practical tips, and advice. UPDATED content includes the latest coding information available, for accurate coding and success on the job.

**cpt code for mononucleosis test: Laboratory Screening and Diagnostic Evaluation** Kelly Small Casler, Kate Gawlik, 2022-04-25 [the authors] did a masterful job of creating and editing this gold standard book that should be used by all clinicians and incorporated into all nursing and health sciences curriculums. -Bernadette Mazurek Melnyk, PhD, APRN-CNP, FNAP, FAANP, FAAN Vice President for Health Promotion University Chief Wellness Officer Dean and Helene Fuld Health Trust Professor of Evidence-Based Practice, College of Nursing Professor of Pediatrics & Psychiatry,

College of Medicine Executive Director, the Helene Fuld Health Trust National Institute for EBP The Ohio State University This is the only book to explicitly guide clinicians through an evidence-based approach to ordering and interpreting laboratory tests. With over 160 commonly ordered tests, this book is designed to foster more accurate clinical decision-making to attain the highest level of patient care. This book summarizes more than 3000 pieces of evidence and incorporates clinical expertise and decision-making on the ordering and interpretation of tests. To promote ease of use, a convenient table maps labs and their corresponding chapter numbers to the relevant body system to promote ease of use. Each laboratory test is presented in a consistent format with information on physiology, indications (screening, diagnosis, and monitoring), algorithms, test interpretation and follow-up testing, patient education, and related diagnoses. Additional valuable features include clinical pearls that highlight common pitfalls and gaps in reasoning, and a cost-benefit analysis. This book also includes CPT and ICD-10 codes, charts and tables for clarification, and references for further study. Key Features: Delivers a strong, evidence-based approach to ordering and interpreting over 160 laboratory tests Promotes accurate clinical decision-making toward achieving the Triple Aim Includes abundant clinical pearls highlighting common pitfalls and gaps in reasoning Provides cost-benefit analysis and discussion of laboratory testing within a high-value healthcare culture Includes 175 supplemental case examples and 200 self-assessment questions to facilitate instruction and learning Includes more than 3000 pieces of evidence from interprofessional resources

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Buck's proven, step-by-step method! The Next Step: Advanced Medical Coding and Auditing, 2013 Edition provides an in-depth understanding of physician-based medical coding and coding services such as medical visits, diagnostic testing and interpretation, treatments, surgeries, and anesthesia. Patient cases reflect actual medical records - with personal details changed or removed - and give you real-world experience coding from physical documentation with advanced material. Enhance your clinical decision-making skills and learn to confidently pull the right information from documents, select the right codes, determine the correct sequencing of those codes, properly audit cases, and prepare for the transition to ICD-10-CM with the help of Carol J. Buck! Auditing cases in every chapter offer realistic experience with auditing coded reports. UNIQUE! Evaluation and Management (E/M) Audit Forms, developed to determine the correct E/M codes, simplify the coding process and help you ensure accuracy. Dual Coding prepares you for the switch to ICD-10 by accompanying all ICD-9 answers with corresponding codes from ICD-10-CM. Realistic patient cases simulate the professional coding experience by using actual medical records (with personal patient details changed or removed), allowing you to practice coding with advanced material. UNIQUE! Netter anatomy plates in each chapter help you understand anatomy and how it affects coding. From the Trenches boxes in each chapter highlight real-life medical coders and provide practical tips, advice, and encouragement. More than 175 illustrations and a full-color design make advanced concepts more accessible and visually engaging. Stronger focus on auditing cases prepares you to assign correct codes to complicated records, as well as audit records for accuracy. Updated content presents the latest coding information so you can practice with the most current information available.

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**cpt code for mononucleosis test: Laboratory and Diagnostic Testing in Ambulatory Care E-Book** Martha (Marti) Garrels, Carol S. Oatis, 2018-08-07 \*\*Selected for Doody's Core Titles® 2024 with Essential Purchase designation in Ambulatory\*\*Learn to master the latest lab testing techniques! Ideal for Medical Assisting and Medical Laboratory Technician programs, *Laboratory and Diagnostic Testing in Ambulatory Care: A Guide for Healthcare Professionals*, 4th Edition, covers the procedures and techniques of commonly used and new CLIA-waived, point-of-care tests, along with some moderately complex tests. Clear, step-by-step instructions and nearly 600 full-color photographs make it easy for you to learn each test and procedure. This edition includes a focus on new technology and the resulting significant advancements in testing.. Expanded coverage of electrocardiography and spirometry reflect the expanding roles of Medical Assistants and Medical Laboratory Technicians. Review questions in the book are accompanied by practice quizzes and videos online to help you master content and hone skills. - Comprehensive coverage of the most common CLIA-waived tests prepares you for laboratory testing in the ambulatory setting. - A triad organization gives chapters a consistent, easy-to-follow format, with 1) fundamental concepts, 2) step-by-step instructions for CLIA-waived procedures, and 3) advanced concepts help hone your critical-thinking and decision-making skills. - Procedure boxes provide step-by-step instructions and full-color photos and illustrations for today's commonly requested CLIA-waived lab tests. - NEW!

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**cpt code for mononucleosis test:** *Pathology Laboratories Handbook* , 2001

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**cpt code for mononucleosis test:** *Coder's Desk Reference* Medicode, OptumInsight, Incorporated, 2000

**cpt code for mononucleosis test:** *Medicare and Medicaid Guide* , 1969

**cpt code for mononucleosis test: Kinn's The Administrative Medical Assistant E-Book** Brigitte Niedzwiecki, Julie Pepper, 2022-11-19 \*\*Selected for Doody's Core Titles® 2024 in Medical Assisting\*\*More than any other product on the market, the most successful medical assistants begin their careers with Kinn. Known for more than 65 years for its alignment with national curriculum standards, Kinn's The Administrative Medical Assistant: An Applied Learning Approach, 15th Edition teaches the real-world administrative skills essential for a career in the modern medical office — always with a focus on helping you apply what you've learned. This edition features new and expanded content on insurance, coding, privacy and security, telehealth logistics, and much more. With its approachable writing style appropriate for all levels of learners and a full continuum of separately sold adaptive solutions, EHR documentation experience, and HESI remediation and assessment, quickly master the leading skills to prepare for certification and a successful career in the dynamic and growing administrative medical assisting profession! - Step-by-step, illustrated procedures include rationales and a focus on professionalism. - Electronic health record (EHR) coverage provides access to hands-on activities using SimChart® for the Medical Office (sold separately). - Applied learning approach incorporates threaded case scenarios and critical thinking applications. - Patient education and legal and ethical features at the end of each chapter reinforce legal and communications implications within medical assisting practice. - Key vocabulary terms and definitions are presented at the beginning of each chapter, highlighted in text discussions, and summarized in a glossary for quick reference. - Robust Evolve companion website offers procedure videos, practice quizzes, mock certification exams, and interactive learning exercises. - NEW! Content aligns to 2022 Medical Assisting educational competencies. - NEW and UPDATED! Comprehensive coverage of all administrative functions complies with accreditation requirements and includes insurance, coding, privacy and security, telehealth logistics, and more. - NEW! Artwork familiarizes you with the modern medical office and equipment.

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**006189: Mononucleosis Test, Qualitative | Labcorp** Mononucleosis Test, Qualitative Test Number 006189 CPT 86308 Synonyms Infectious Mononucleosis Antibodies

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reference range in the laboratory report. The CPT codes provided are based on AMA guidance and are for informational purposes only. CPT coding is the sole

**How To Use CPT Code 86308 - Coding Ahead LLC** CPT code 86308 represents the laboratory procedure for screening heterophile antibodies in a patient's serum or plasma. This test is particularly relevant in the context of diagnosing

**OSOM® Mono Test - Sekisui Diagnostics** OSOM® Mono Test For the qualitative detection of infectious mononucleosis heterophilic antibodies in serum, plasma or whole blood

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**Mononucleosis Serology Mono Screen - UNC Medical Center** The assay uses guinea pig antigen absorption with horse red cell agglutination to detect heterophile antibody

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