

CHAPTER 5  
SECTION 3.1

## SURGICAL PATHOLOGY

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### I. PROCEDURE CODE RANGE

**88302 - 88309**

### II. DESCRIPTION

These surgical pathology services include accession, examination, and reporting for a specimen which is defined as tissue that is submitted for individual and separate attention, requiring individual examination and pathologic diagnosis. These codes require gross and microscopic examination.

### III. POLICY

A. Surgical pathology procedures, billed by a pathologist, are covered services.

B. If the operating surgeon bills for surgical pathology procedures, they will be denied as incidental, since the definitive (microscopic) examination will be performed later, after fixation of the specimen, by the pathologist who will bill separately.

C. Dermatologists are qualified to perform surgical pathology services. Therefore, if a dermatologist bills for both the surgical procedure (e.g., 11100, skin biopsy) as well as the surgical pathology, both procedures are covered in full.

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