AADA Position Statement on Pathology Billing

(Approved by the Board of Directors May 20, 2006; Amended by the Board of Directors on May 8, 2007; Amended by the Board of Directors on August 5, 2007)

1. Dermatologists, based on their education and training, should be permitted to interpret pathology specimens and to be paid fairly for their work. No single specialty has exclusive rights to utilize and bill for individual CPT codes.

2. When dermatologists choose to send pathology specimens out for interpretation, they should be able to choose the laboratory and/or dermatopathologist they believe is best for their patients.

3. While dermatologists are entitled to fair compensation for their own dermatopathological services, they should not charge for dermatopathology interpretation services rendered by other providers except in situations where:
   a. The patient is made aware of the charges, and
   b. The charge/markup is commensurate with professional or administrative services actually rendered by the dermatologist and/or his/her practice and does not violate state law, and
   c. The dermatologist appends, when appropriate, the modifier -90 (reference outside laboratory) to the CPT code indicating that the laboratory procedure was performed by a party other than the treating or reporting physician.

4. Dermatologists interpreting their own slides should be permitted to purchase the technical component and bill for the global service if allowed by law.