



Blood Lead Level Testing

WellCare Health Plans, Inc.
The WellCare Group of Companies

September 1, 2009

Dear Provider:

The following information is offered to assist you in performing blood lead level screening to eligible Medicaid members.

Since 1989, Federal law has required that children enrolled in Medicaid must have their blood lead level measured at both 12 months and 24 months of age. Children who are older than 24 months and who have not received a screening blood lead test must receive one immediately, regardless of whether the child has been determined to be at low or high risk for lead exposure. The Child medical record needs to be inclusive of all services rendered outside the office. Completing a lead risk assessment questionnaire does not count as a lead screening. This questionnaire can be found on our website at <http://georgia.wellcare.com>.

Claims Payment

Blood lead level (BLL) testing, as a component of a comprehensive Health Check visit or anytime when risk is established between 36 and 72 months, is accomplished in two ways. One is a screening capillary test, followed by either a second capillary test within 3 months or a venous sample if the initial result is greater than 10 µg/dL. Note that due to concerns with false positive results from portable lead analyzer equipment, WellCare does not advocate this approach to BLL testing, unless a result of 8µg/dL and above is repeated by a laboratory analysis within the time period as suggested by the Georgia Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention recommendations and guidelines.

Currently two options for BLL test processing exist:

- **Physician office**
For practitioners having a 240 CLIA certification, the blood lead test can be billed using procedure code 83655 if the test is performed in the office. For providers lacking this certification, the venous sample can be sent to our contracted labs: Lab Corp or Quest.
- **WellCare contracted labs: Quest and Labcorp**
When the sample is sent to a contracted lab, the claim form should reflect procedure code 36415 (venipuncture) or 36416 (capillary stick), with diagnosis code V82.5.

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Reporting Guidelines

Georgia is required to report compliance of the BLL screen regulation to the federal government annually. Any provider with a current CLIA certificate who performs an in-office BLL is required to report both normal and elevated results to the Georgia Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (GCLPPP). All report forms need to be filled out in their entirety, including home address, Medicaid number, race, and ethnicity. Results can be reported one of three ways:

- Notifiable Disease Card (Form 3095)
- Lead Screening Report Form
- State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (SENDSS) at <http://sendss.state.ga.us/>

Disease notification cards and lead screening report forms should be placed in an envelope marked CONFIDENTIAL and sent to GCLPPP at:

**Georgia Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
2 Peachtree Street NW
Suite 14-487
Atlanta GA 30303**

Please contact GCLPPP at **1-888-247-9054** for all questions and concerns about lead including lead screenings, lead results, and lead forms. If you require additional information or need assistance with BLL requirements or other claims questions, please call the WellCare of Georgia, Inc. Provider Hotline at **1-866-231-1821** or your Provider Relations Representative.

Sincerely,

**Bernard Cohen, MD
Senior Medical Director**