

Provider Communication

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| Subject: Georgia Public Health Lab fees | Priority: High |
| Date: June 01, 2010 | Message ID: ACSBNR06012010_1 |

Dear Providers,

The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) and the Division of Public Health (DPH) increased its fees for certain screening lab tests conducted by the Georgia Public Health Laboratory (GPHL)—memo attached.

Effective April 1, 2010, Fee for Service (FFS) Medicaid will begin reimbursing providers the \$10 lab handling fee assessed by the GPHL. The \$10.00 reimbursement is limited to the following CPT lab codes:

- CPT 83655—Assay of lead
- CPT 86403—Antibody, HTLV or HIV or HIV confirmatory test
- CPT 86689—Particle agglutination screen, each body
- CPT 86803—Hepatitis C AB test

Providers are also required to continue to submit all other specified lab tests to the GPHL, as outlined in the Part II Policy and Procedure for Independent Laboratory Services, Section 903. Only CPT codes 83655, 86403, 86689, and 86803 are subject to reimbursement.

To ensure accurate reimbursement, providers must submit CPT codes 83655, 86403, 86689, and 86803 with modifier 90 or 91, on the CMS 1500 claim form per established billing guidelines. Health Check providers submitting assay of lead tests to the Albany Regional State Lab, are required to submit CPT code 83655 with modifiers 90 or 91 and CPT code 36415 or 36416 with modifier EP with the diagnosis code V82.5, all on the same claim.

Modifier EP—Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic Treatment

- ICD9 V82.5—Chemical poisoning and other contamination screening for:
 - heavy metal poisoning,
 - ingestion of radioactive substance,
 - poisoning from contaminated water supply,
 - radiation exposure.

Modifier 90—Reference (outside) Laboratory:

- When laboratory procedures are performed by a party other than the treating or reporting physician, the procedure may be identified by adding modifier 90 to the usual procedure number.

Modifier 91—Repeat Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Test:

- In the course of treatment of the patient, it may be necessary to repeat the same laboratory test on the same day to obtain subsequent (multiple) test results.

For additional information or questions contact the Georgia Health Partnership (GHP) Customer Interaction Center at 800-766-4456 or submit questions electronically via the GHP Web Portal by clicking on the “Contact Us” link located in the upper-right corner of any page.



February 11, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Offices
FROM: M. Rony Francois, MD, MSPH, PhD
RE: GPHL New Fees

Georgia Public Health Lab New Fees

Effective April 1, 2010, the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), Division of Public Health (DPH) is increasing fees for screening tests, conducted by the Georgia Public Health Lab (GPHL). In an effort to address the economic shortfall in state revenue and to support DPH's FY2010 budget, DPH has proposed to increase lab fees for specific tests (see below). The increased revenue from the new lab fees will be directed to the State Treasury. Based on DCH's recommendation to Georgia legislators, these new lab fees will help to maintain the current FY2010 budget for GPHL and to ensure that it can continue to provide critical lab screening tests for the citizens of Georgia.

The Georgia Public Health Laboratory new fees are as follows:

| Lab Test: | Current Fee: | New Fee: |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Routine HIV Screening Test | \$0.00 | \$10.00 |
| Routine Syphilis Screening Test | \$0.00 | \$10.00 |
| Hepatitis C | \$0.00 | \$10.00 |
| Lead Blood Test | \$0.00 | \$10.00 |
| Well Water Testing | \$0.00 | \$30.00 |

Districts and counties may obtain these lab tests locally if they choose to do so.

Each public health district may charge for these lab fees based on a sliding scale up to \$10.00.

Exception: The Well Water testing is \$30.00 and is not adjustable.

Retests are subject to the new fees, unless the error in testing is made by the GPHL.

Should you have any questions regarding the new lab fees and/or screening tests, please contact Dr. Elizabeth Franko, PH Clinical Laboratory Director, at (404-327-7900) or efranko@dhr.state.ga.us.