

**Medicaid Alert....Changes in Medicaid Lab Policy on
Required Blood Lead Level Screens**

The Chapter recently learned that the Albany Public Health Laboratory began charging fees for various tests--including a \$10 fee for the Blood Lead Level test--as of April 1, 2010. The change was made to generate additional revenue to help with the state's budget woes. **However, for patients enrolled in one of the 3 Medicaid CMO's, practices may avoid the \$10 charge by using the laboratory which is contracted with the CMO for the blood lead level screen.**

These contracted labs for the CMO's are:

Wellcare: Labcorp and Quest

Amerigroup: Labcorp, Quest, Spectrum

Peach State: Doctor's Lab, Labcorp, and Quest

For Medicaid Fee-for-Service (FFS) pts: You have two choices: A. Send the specimen to any Medicaid FFS enrolled private lab and Medicaid will pay that lab for the analysis.

Or, B. Send the specimen to the Albany lab. The lab will charge your office \$10 for the analysis, but the Georgia Medicaid FFS program is working on an arrangement whereby they would reimburse practices for the \$10 upon submission of a claim.

For private plan pts: In those circumstances where a blood lead level screen is done, use the lab that the private plan contracts with. Remember, using the Albany Lab for these patients will trigger a \$10 charge, which the private plan may or may not cover.

Use of In-office Screening Devices: If your practice uses an in-office blood lead screening device such as a Lead Analyzer II to do your analysis, these are acceptable. However, we understand that practices must then report the test results. If you have any questions about how to report contact your CMO. For FFS patients, check with your Medicaid field representative, or contact Chapter office at 404-881-5074.