



## COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH GUIDELINES FOR SICKLE CELL TESTING IN COLLEGE ATHLETES

### **DEFINITION**

Sickle cell Disease (SCD) describes a group of inherited red blood cell disorders that create abnormal hemoglobin. Sickle hemoglobin can form stiff rods within the red cell, changing it into a sickle shape. These cells are not flexible and can stick to vessel walls, causing a blockage preventing oxygen from reaching nearby tissues. Lack of oxygen in the tissues can cause severe fatigue, organ damage over time, and acute pain which can result in hospitalization for treatment.

### **BACKGROUND**

Universal screening for Sickle Cell disease did not begin in Georgia until 1998. The database for screening results started in the year 2000. The physicians of students needing these results have 2 options. They can contact the birthing hospital or collect a blood specimen for testing. The health departments can draw blood test and send to private lab or attempt to look up results in Sendss. Now with this procedure, the health department has the option of drawing the test for the student athlete as part of their college preparation visit, which can include vaccines and other screenings needed for college.

### **SUBJECTIVE**

Students presents to the county health department with college forms that require Sickle Cell testing for the student to be able to participate in athletics.

### **OBJECTIVE**

County Health Department collects specimen(s) and prepares for transport to private lab according to local health department procedure for pick up and transport.

VHN code: Q825

Price to student: \$47.00 (includes the lab draw fee)

### **ASSESSMENT**

When results are available, they should be given to the client. Any abnormal results should be given with a referral for follow-up care.

However, if the lab was drawn with a private physician's order the results are sent to the private health care provider for follow up as with any other private lab follow up procedure.

### **PLAN**

Lab results provided to client and college form can be filled out and signed as appropriate.

A private lab is a fee for service lab provided to our clients. All tests must be paid in full at the contracted price with no write-offs to private lab.