

## Capillary Lead Testing Can Improve Your Lead Testing Rates!

New York State regulations **require** that **all** Medicaid and Child Health Plus children receive Lead Testing **by the time they reach 2 years of age**. **Testing for lead is an important preventive service, expected of all Affinity pediatricians and family practitioners**. Our goal is to have lead testing on 100% of our members under 2 years old.

### Capillary Lead Testing

*The actual procedure is quite simple.* Using clean technique, the child's finger is prepped, a lancet and capillary tube are used to collect 400ul of blood, and the sample is picked up or shipped to the lab. When testing is done in your office, rather than at an off-site lab, the sample can be drawn while the patient is already at your site, and the patient does not have to endure the trauma of a venipuncture. All major lab companies provide for this test, for which Affinity reimburses.

In New York State, outside the 5 boroughs, if the BLL is  $\geq 10 \mu\text{g/dL}$  the result must be confirmed with a blood venous test.

### Venous Vs Fingertick Blood Lead Specimens

Venous specimens are more accurate than fingertick specimens. Environmental contamination of fingertick specimens can result in false positives, and finger squeezing can dilute blood and result in false negatives. All fingertick blood lead results  $\geq 10 \mu\text{g/dL}$  must be confirmed with venous specimens within the time frames specified in Table 4. For information on the best practices for collecting fingertick specimens, please see the CDC's "Capillary Blood Sampling Protocol" at <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/guide/1997/pdf/c2.pdf> . If blood lead specimens are being analyzed in the office and are not being submitted to a clinical laboratory, the health care provider must report the blood lead results within 5 business days to the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) by fax (212) 676-6326.

For Online reporting go to CIR Website at: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/cir/index.htm>

If you cannot report online you may fax to: **212-676-6326**.

For more information, contact Rosalind Coco, RN, 718-794-6049.