

## URGENT PROVIDER UPDATE – GEORGIA MEDICAID

Dear Georgia Medicaid Provider:

Avesis would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued participation in the Avesis Georgia Medicaid vision program. As we approach the fourth year of administering routine eye care services to eligible Georgia Medicaid members enrolled in WellCare and AmeriGroup Community Care, Avesis will be implementing changes to the program that may affect the delivery of materials to these members for your office.

### **Laboratory Program:**

Effective **August 15, 2010**, all eyeglasses for eligible members will need to be ordered from Georgia Correctional Industries (GCI) or Essilor's laboratory, Select Optical, rather than Southern Optical Lab. Avesis will no longer permit the fabrication of materials through independent provider offices.

**Option 1 Providers:** Those offices currently fabricating themselves must choose either GCI or Essilor and provide notification to Avesis by fax, mail or email not later than the close of business **Friday July 16, 2010**. Providers who have not made their selection by this date will be assigned a lab.

**Option 2 - GCI and Option 3 Essilor Providers:** Providers may take this opportunity to switch between the two Avesis contracted labs should they choose. That selection must be received by Avesis via fax, mail or email no later than the close of business **Friday July 16, 2010**. Option 2 and 3 providers from whom no change is received by the designated date will remain in their current option. However, please note that the Essilor lab has changed as noted above. Eyeglasses will no longer be billed to Avesis by providers utilizing Essilor's lab. Providers will only be required to bill Avesis for professional fees.

Consignment frame kits will be supplied for each of the lab programs by GCI or Essilor. Providers are responsible for the replacement cost of all frames within the selection that are damaged or not returned in usable condition. Providers who elect to utilize GCI for the delivery of eyeglasses and are already providers for the State Medicaid fee for service members will utilize the same frame kit for eligible Avesis WellCare and AmeriGroup members. Both providers who newly elect to utilize Essilor's lab and those currently using Essilor's lab will be sent an updated consignment frame kit from Essilor. Providers will be required to return the current frame kit to Essilor and will be responsible for the replacement cost of all frames within the selection that are damaged or not returned in usable condition.

### **Prior Authorization - Adult Eyeglasses:**

With the change in the delivery of eyeglasses to enrollees of this program Avesis is now able to remove the requirement of prior authorization for adult eyeglasses for WellCare members. The prerequisite remains as follows: +/- 1.00 in any one of the four primary meridians (spherical and cylindrical correction) with the prescription viewed in minus cylinder for distance correction only. Near vision correction is not included in these criteria. Only adult members whose refractive error meets and/or exceeds this requirement should have order forms completed and sent to Avesis' contracted laboratories. Members not meeting this requirement will be personally responsible for eyeglasses if purchased.

**Dispensing Fee:**

All providers delivering eyeglasses to eligible members will be paid a \$15.00 dispensing fee. 92340 (single vision), 92341 (bifocal) or 92342 (trifocal) should be submitted to Avesis **after** the members eyeglasses have been dispensed.

**Member Buy-Ups:**

Members under both health plans may “buy up” and purchase materials directly from your practice, if they choose to do so. Members must always be shown the covered frame selection first and be made aware that they can receive covered materials at no out of pocket expense if they order within the frame selection covered under their benefit plan. Included with this letter is the Non-Covered Services Disclosure Form which must be completed and signed by the member and provider for buy ups. Upon completion this form must remain a permanent part of the member’s medical record available for inspection when requested by Avesis or the member’s health plan. Please note that the reimbursement for frames purchased directly from your office will change effective **August 15, 2010**. Reimbursement to providers will be \$10.00 for non-covered frames and \$10.00 for non-covered lenses for the \$40.00 buy-up allowance. In this scenario; the dispensing fee will not be paid.

**Provider Re-Dos:**

Provider re-do due to doctor/staff errors or prescription change will be limited to once within sixty (60) days of the original date of service. Providers will be charged \$15.00 for new lenses and \$25.00 for complete pairs of eyeglasses. Conditions where there is a precipitating medical event causing the refractive change will require prior authorization.

**Modifier SC**

This modifier should be used to report medical necessity only. For example, a member presents with Keratoconus for which contact lenses are medically indicated; you would code the contact lenses as V2501-SC.

**Modifier KZ**

This modifier should be used to report any and all member buy ups. For example, a member views the frames covered under the program and decides to purchase from the providers’ own frame inventory. The provider would submit all material service codes with modifier KZ.

If you have any questions, please contact a Provider Services Representative at 800.231.0979. Again, we thank you for your participation as an Avesis provider and look forward to working with you for many years to come.

Sincerely,



Nichole Mitchell

Director, Government Services