NCAA Sickle Cell Trait (SCT) Testing – What You Need to Know

1. Requirements.
   a. All participating student-athletes are required to provide confirmation of sickle cell trait status, either through: 1) existing documentation from birth, or 2) recent screening. Most entering college-aged students have been tested for SCT as a standard genetic screening at birth.
   b. A student-athlete may sign a waiver declining confirmation of SCT status if he or she is first provided education by the institution regarding the implications of exercising the waiver option.
   c. Student-athletes may not exercise the waiver option prior to matriculation.
   d. Student-athletes will also receive mandatory education regarding the risks, impact and precautions associated with SCT if they plan to participate while awaiting the results of a screening or exercised the waiver option.

2. Test payment options.
   a. Quest Lab agreement provides the following options:
      (1) Institution onsite testing. Blood draws conducted and administered by Quest at institution, fees billed to the institution. Institution calls 866-226-8046 to schedule onsite blood drawing event.
      (2) Patient service center. Blood drawn at Quest service center, billed to the institution through account set up by institution through 866-226-8046.
      (3) Student-athlete service scheduled and paid by student-athlete online. [link] - $32.50
   b. The Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code is a uniform number assigned to every medical, surgical and diagnostic service, used by insurers to determine the amount of reimbursement that a practitioner will receive by an insurer when he or she performs that service. Insurance coverage: SCT lab test CPT code is 85660.

3. Education.
   a. Institutions must provide general SCT education to all participating student-athletes.
   b. Institutions must provide “informed consent” education for those student-athletes seeking to exercise the waiver option.
   c. How the education is delivered to the student-athletes is at the institution’s discretion; however the NCAA provides educational resources that may be used to meet the education requirements for both general and “informed consent” education.

4. Resources. [link]

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