

## **Introduction to Life Line Screening for Health Reporters**

### **Who We Are**

Life Line Screening is the leading provider of community-based vascular screening services in the United States. Established in 1993, Life Line Screening is dedicated to helping people live fuller, healthier lives by identifying risk factors for stroke, cardiovascular disease and osteoporosis. The mission of Life Line Screening is to make people aware of an undetected health problem and encourage these individuals to seek follow up care with their physicians. We are dedicated to providing the highest quality preventive screenings at an affordable rate.

Life Line Screening's corporate headquarters are located in Cleveland, Ohio; however, we do not hold screenings at our corporate facilities.

### **What We Screen For**

We offer screenings to detect carotid artery stenosis, atrial fibrillation, systolic hypertension, abdominal aortic aneurysms, peripheral arterial disease and diminished bone density. Our participants are generally age 50 and over and are asymptomatic although they tend to have significant risk factors such as hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, smoking, diabetes mellitus, or a family history of stroke. In certain states, we also do finger-stick blood tests for cholesterol, glucose and C-reactive protein.

### **How We Screen**

Our technologists are highly skilled and are either registered or eligible to be registered with the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) or Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI). All screening tests are performed in accordance with the latest medical literature recommendations for categorization of normal and abnormal results. Sonographers adhere to strict protocols to ensure consistency and accuracy. Individuals with positive test results are urged to contact their personal physicians who can then order further testing and any treatment considerations.

Life Line Screening is a non-referral agency. We do not refer individuals for further examinations or consultation to any particular doctor nor do we permit our physician reviewers to self-refer. No Medicaid, Medicare or insurance billing is involved.

### **Validity and Medical Oversight**

Life Line Screening's tests have been independently reviewed by researchers at two academic institutions. Excellent concordance was found between Life Line Screening's findings and an ICAVL accredited laboratory.

Medical supervision is provided by our National Medical Director, Andrew Manganaro, MD, FACS, FACC and Clinical Director, Karen Rena Law, RDMS, RDCS, RVT. Reviewing physicians are board-certified, licensed physicians.

We are also CLIA certified as a moderately-complex lab.

### **Partnering hospitals**

Life Line Screening partners with hundreds of hospitals across the nation in order identify risk for stroke and cardiovascular disease early. As a non-referral agency, partnerships with hospitals and medical centers help us complete the circle of care for our participants.

*(selected reference list below)*

### **Selected screening references**

- One-Year Cardiovascular Event Rates in Outpatient with Atherothrombosis, Steg PG, Bhatt KL, Wilson PWF, et al., *JAMA* 2007; 297: 1197-1205.
- The Cost-effectiveness of a Quick-Screen Program for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms. KC Kent et al. Department of Surgery, Weil Medical College of Cornell University, New York Presbyterian Hospital. *Surgery*. 2002 ;132:399-407
- Power Doppler Imaging: Initial Evaluation as a Screening Examination for Carotid Artery Stenosis. Bluth EI, Sunshine JH, Lyons JB, Beam CA, Troxclair LA, Althans-Kopecky L, Crewson PE, Sullivan MA, Smetherman DA, Heidenreich PA, Neiman HL, Burkhardt JH. *Radiology*. 2000; 215:791-800.
- Osteoporosis, An Underdiagnosed Disease. Chestnut C. *JAMA*. 2001; 286:2865-2866
- Peripheral arterial disease detection, awareness, and treatment in primary care. (Clinical briefs in primary care).Hirsch AT, et al. *JAMA*. 2001; 286: 1317-1324.