

## Fact Sheet for Lead Screening in Children (LSC)

**FACT:** Approximately half a million U.S. children 1 to 5 years of age have elevated blood lead levels, which can cause serious health problems. Protecting children from exposure to lead is important to lifelong good health.

| Guidelines for Lead Screening in Children                      |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  | Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT)   | Health Care Effectiveness Data and Information Set standards (HEDIS)   |
| What is it?  | The EPSDT benefit provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children under age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid. EPSDT is key to ensuring that children and adolescents receive appropriate preventive, dental, mental health, developmental and specialty services.   | HEDIS is a tool used by more than 90 percent of America's health plans to measure performance on important dimensions of care and service.   |
| When to perform a blood lead level test?                       | <p>Perform two capillary or venous lead blood tests before child's 2nd birthday.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A verbal risk assessment must be performed for lead toxicity at every periodic visit between the ages of 6 and 72 months to determine the patient's risk. On the verbal risk assessment, if any of the 10 questions are "yes" or "don't know," a child is considered at high risk for high doses of lead exposure and a blood lead level test should be attained.</li> <li>• All children should be tested at both 12 and 24 months of age regardless of risk.</li> <li>• Any child 25 to 72 months (less than 6 years) of age who has never previously been tested must receive the blood lead test.</li> </ul> | Perform one or more capillary or venous lead blood tests before child's 2nd birthday.  |
| Documentation  | Documentation of lead testing must include laboratory tests ordered, date, results, appropriate referral and follow up.  | Documentation of lead testing must include date the test was performed and the result or finding.  |
| Screening Procedure  | Either capillary or venous blood may be used as the specimen for the blood lead level test.  | Either capillary or venous blood may be used as the specimen for the blood lead level test.  |
| How often do I perform a verbal risk assessment with patients? | A verbal risk assessment should be performed for lead toxicity at every periodic visit between the ages of 6 and 72 months. The lead risk assessment tool is available on Horizon NJ Health's website at <a href="http://horizonNJhealth.com">horizonNJhealth.com</a> . We ask that you use this tool to assess the risks of your patients and provide the required lead screening services.   | HEDIS guidelines do not require a verbal risk assessment to be completed. However, it is always best practice to complete an assessment to better evaluate the child for a blood screening test. |

(continued)

| CPT:     | LOINC:  | Description:   | HEDIS | EPSDT |
|----------|---|--|-------|-------|
| 83655    | 10368-9,10912-4, 14807-2, 17052-2, 25459-9, 27129-6, 32325-3, 5671-3, 5674-7, 77307-7 | Lead test (diagnosis code required)  | ✓     |       |
| 83655 52 |   | Lead test (diagnosis code required)  |       | ✓     |
| 36405 59 |   | Venipuncture for lead screening for children under 3 years of age, scalp vein                |       | ✓     |
| 36406 59 |   | Venipuncture for lead screening for children under 3 years of age, other vein                |       | ✓     |
| 36410 59 |   | Venipuncture for lead screening for children 3 years of age or older                         |       | ✓     |
| 36415 59 |   | Collection of venous blood by venipuncture for lead screening for children 3 years and older |       | ✓     |
| 36416 59 |   | Collection of capillary blood specimen for lead screening (finger, heel and ear stick)       |       | ✓     |

### What resources are available to me?

- For access to information regarding member eligibility and status of claims, as well as a variety of tools and forms, visit **NaviNet.net**.
- Horizon NJ Health contracts with Medtox Laboratories Inc. which facilitates the capillary filter paper method collection for lead screening in your office. If you would like additional information or to sign up with Medtox, please call **1-877-725-7241**.

Source: [cdc.gov/nceh/lead/](https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/)