

Lead Screening/Testing Overview

Background

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has identified all children age 6 – 72 months to be at risk for lead poisoning.
- CMS mandates that Medicaid children receive a blood lead test at 12 and 24 months of age.
- CMS mandates that Medicaid children 36 – 72 months of age receive a blood lead test if they have not previously had one.
- Missouri leads the nation in lead production.
- Nearly ¼ (24%) of Missouri housing was built prior to 1950, when high lead-content paint was widely used.
- Missouri counties are defined as targeted testing (low-risk) or universal testing (high risk).

CPT Code: 83655

Targeted Testing (Low Risk)

Providers should:

- Screen all children from 6 months – 6 years using the HCY Lead Risk Assessment Guide.
- Perform blood lead testing on all Medicaid eligible children at 12 and 24 months.*
- Perform blood lead testing on every child < 6 years found to be high-risk (based on the Assessment Guide).
- Perform blood lead testing on any child < 6 years who visits a high-risk county for 10+ hours per week.

*The state of Missouri recommends that all children, regardless of Medicaid eligibility, be tested for lead at 12 and 24 months.

Universal Testing (High Risk)

Providers should:

- Perform blood lead testing on any child < 6 who lives in or visits a high-risk county 10+ hours per week.
- Sign a “proof of lead testing” record supplied by day care centers within 30 days of a child’s enrollment at the center.

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Lead Screening/Testing Overview (cont.)

Reminders

- Medicaid providers are required by contract to:
 - Perform lead screening/testing (when indicated) as part of a full EPSDT (HCY) visit
 - Perform blood lead testing on all Medicaid eligible children at 12 and 24 months, regardless of their county (some children must be tested more frequently)
 - Utilize the State of Missouri's HCY Lead Risk Assessment Guide for the completion of lead screenings
 - For providers who use paper medical records, the HCY Lead Risk Assessment Guide must be signed and dated by the provider and retained in the member's medical record.
 - For providers who use electronic medical records, the HCY Lead Risk Assessment Guide is not required, but all components of the Guide must be captured and easily accessible in the medical record.
- A blood lead test must be performed immediately on any Medicaid child 12 to 72 months who does not have a documented blood lead test.
- Lead testing can be done by capillary (e.g., finger stick) or venous method.
- Providers who practice in a targeted (low-risk) county should be mindful of patients who live in a universal (high-risk) county and provide the appropriate care for that patient.

For questions regarding childhood lead poisoning prevention and treatment, please contact:
Missouri Care's Lead Case Manager at 1-800-322-6027, ext. 4617

or

the Department of Health and Senior Services at 573-751-6102