



## Blood Level Lead Screenings

### Why Perform Blood Lead Level (BLL) Screenings

Missouri is the number one lead-producing state in the US with 65 percent of housing built before 1978 which may have some lead-based paint. When lead paint deteriorates it flakes, chips, and becomes a fine dust that can be easily inhaled or ingested. Children less than 5 years of age are at an increased risk as their bodies are growing rapidly and they tend to place objects that could be contaminated with lead dust in their mouths. Studies have shown children with high BLL can have severe neurologic problems, including seizures, coma, and even death<sup>1</sup>. Per the Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention of the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) concluded there is no safe level of lead exposure and adopted the reference value of greater than or equal to 5 µg/dL. Even the children with BLL testing below 5 µg/dL can experience some impairment in cognition. Children greater than age 2 should still be considered for BLL testing if potentially exposed to lead, for example, living in an older home that has not been maintained or is being renovated<sup>3</sup>.

### EPSDT/ HCY Program/ Lead Screening

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) and Healthy Child and Youth (HCY) screenings must include lead screenings on children 6 months through 72 months of age using the MO HealthNet HCY Lead Risk Assessment Guide (form) located at:

<https://health.mo.gov/living/environment/lead/pdf/HCYLeadRiskAssessmentGuide.pdf>.

**MO HealthNet requires blood testing of all MO HealthNet eligible children at 12 and 24 months, regardless of risk<sup>2</sup>.** If the child is in a high-risk area, a blood lead test is required annually.

Lab services are reported separately using CPT codes.

### Environmental Lead Investigations

When there is a blood lead level reading equal to or greater than 10 µg/dL, the member must be re-tested. When there are two consecutive blood lead tests performed at least three months apart and results are 15 µg/dL or above, an environmental investigation must be obtained. The source of the hazardous lead exposure in the residential environment should be determined utilizing licensed lead risk assessors approved and registered by the MO Department of Health and Senior Services. Refer to the [MO HealthNet provider manual](#) for more details.

***Documentation in the medical record should support why a parent refuses to have a blood level lead screening test and include an ICD 10 Code from Z53.2- code series.***

### Blood Lead Level Screening Guidance

#### TIPS:

#### ➤ HCY Lead Risk Assessment Guide...

The following are additional key points from the HCY Lead Risk Assessment Guide:

- The child should be from 6 to 72 months of age
- There are suggested age intervals for the structured lead assessment questions
- There are suggested intervals for retesting blood lead levels
- If there is a positive response to any of the questions, the child must receive a blood lead test immediately
- Guide may be used to screen any child for lead poisoning regardless of insurance
- If a blood lead level is equal to or greater than 10 mcg/dL with an initial finger stick, a venous blood sample must be completed

Click on the icon for a link to the HCY Lead Risk Assessment Guide



HCYLeadRiskAssessmentGuide.pdf



<p>➤ <b>CPT codes...</b><sup>4</sup></p>	<p><b>MO HealthNet requires</b> the following CPT code to be used to bill the blood lead test:  <b>83655</b>- Lead screening laboratory- chemistry test (<i>capillary specimen or venous blood sample</i>)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p>Providers may be reimbursed for the collection of a capillary blood specimen and the lab handling fee when drawing a finger stick blood specimen for a laboratory service:  <b>36416</b>- Collection of capillary blood specimen (finger, heel, ear stick)  <b>99000</b>- Handling and or conveyance of specimen for transfer from the office to a laboratory</p> <p>Providers may be reimbursed for the collection and performance of on-site blood testing:  <b>36416</b>- Collection of capillary blood specimen (finger, heel, ear stick)  <b>83655</b>- Lead screening laboratory- chemistry test</p>			
<p>➤ <b>Coding Scenario...</b><sup>4,5</sup></p>	<p><b>Example:</b> 18-month year old male presents for a preventive visit. The mother answered the Lead Risk Assessment questions. The provider reviewed the questions with the mother. The provider ordered the blood lead level test as the child has not had a previous lead screening test. The nurse performs the lab stick and sends to the on-site lab for testing.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p><b>CPT codes to bill...</b>  <b>99392-EP</b>- Preventive visit with EP modifier  <b>36416</b>- Collection of capillary blood specimen  <b>83655</b>-Lead blood screening test</p> </td> <td> <p><b>ICD 10 codes...</b>  <b>Z00.129</b>- Encounter for routine child health exam without abnormal findings  <b>Z77.011</b>- Contact with/ (suspected) exposure to lead</p> </td> </tr> </table>		<p><b>CPT codes to bill...</b>  <b>99392-EP</b>- Preventive visit with EP modifier  <b>36416</b>- Collection of capillary blood specimen  <b>83655</b>-Lead blood screening test</p>	<p><b>ICD 10 codes...</b>  <b>Z00.129</b>- Encounter for routine child health exam without abnormal findings  <b>Z77.011</b>- Contact with/ (suspected) exposure to lead</p>
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<p>➤ <b>Home State Health Lead Care Management...</b></p>	<p>MO HealthNet requires children with one blood lead level of 20 µg/dL or greater or who have had two venous tests at least three months apart with elevations of 15 µg/dL or greater be referred for case management services through the HCY Program.</p> <p><b>Home State Health</b> has a dedicated care manager to provide outreach, care and assistance to ensure those members who had a positive blood lead test equal to or greater than 10 mcg/dL are getting timely and effective services. Provider or members are encouraged to call Home State Health Case Management for more information: <b>1-855-694-4663, ext. 6075125</b></p>			
<p>➤ <b>P4P/HEDIS measures</b><sup>5</sup>...</p>	<p>Below is the Payment for Performance (P4P) measure and the HEDIS measure; <i>the P4P measure only pertains to the Medicaid membership population:</i></p> <p><b>Lead Screening in Children (LSC)</b>  This is the percentage of children 2 years of age who had one or more capillary or venous lead blood test for lead poisoning by their second birthday.</p>			

1. CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/ss/ss6603a1.htm>
2. <https://health.mo.gov/living/environment/lead/index.php>
3. <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/138/1/e20161493>
4. Current Procedural Terminology Professional Coding Book, 2019, American Medical Association
5. ICD 10-CM Expert for Physicians: The Complete Official Code Set, Optum360. 2018 Optum360, LLC
6. HEDIS Technical Specifications, 2020

➤ **Secure Portal Registration:** If you haven't already do so, please go to [www.HomeStateHealth.com](http://www.HomeStateHealth.com) to register for our Secure Portal. Functions on the portal include: Verification of eligibility, submission of claims, entering authorizations, viewing patient care gaps, etc. Use of the portal is FREE for all services!

➤ **Electronic Funds Transfer / Electronic Remittance Advice**

- Home State Health Plan partners with PaySpan Health for EFT/ERA services.
- Please register with PaySpan Health at [www.payspanhealth.com](http://www.payspanhealth.com)

**Questions?**

**Contact Provider Relations at 1-855-694-4663.**