



January 2021

PROVIDER UPDATE

How to Bill for Blood Lead Screening

Did you know?

California Health & Safety Code Sections 124125 to 124165 (<https://bit.ly/HSC-leadtest>) declared childhood lead exposure as the most significant childhood environmental health problem in the state and established the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program to reduce the incidence of childhood lead exposure in California. Learn more about the issue at <https://bit.ly/childhood-lead>.

Why is it important?

Lead in blood has been shown to negatively affect IQ, ability to pay attention, and academic achievement. Santa Clara Family Health Plan (SCFHP) encourages providers to perform periodic health assessments on children between the ages six (6) months and six (6) years. California regulations require a blood lead test at ages 12 months and 24 months (California Department of Public Health, 2018).

How to bill for lead level screening

CPT	Description
83655	Blood lead test
36416	Capillary collection

To-do list: This is a brief summary of all VHP Medi-Cal providers' responsibilities

<p>Anticipatory Guidance</p>	<p>At each periodic assessment from six (6) months to six (6) years, all health care providers are required¹ to inform parents and guardians about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The risks and effects of childhood lead exposure • The requirement that children enrolled in Medi-Cal receive blood lead tests • The requirement that children not enrolled in Medi-Cal who are at high risk of lead exposure receive blood lead tests
-------------------------------------	---



<p>Blood Lead Test</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all children in publicly supported programs such as Medi-Cal, Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and CHPD at both 12 months and 24 months of age¹ • Perform a “catch up” test for children ages 24 months to six (6) years in a publicly supported program who were not tested at 12 and 24 months
<p>Assess</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If child is not in a publicly supported program, do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ask your patient, “does your child live in, or spend a lot of time in, a place built before 1978 that has peeling or chipped paint or that has been recently remodeled?” o If they answer “yes” or “don’t know”, require blood lead test • Require blood lead test if a change in circumstances has put child at risk of lead exposure • Other indications for a blood lead test (not in regulation but should be considered): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Parental request o Sibling, playmate, or other close contact with an increased blood lead level o Suspected lead exposure o History of living in or visiting country with high levels of environmental lead

¹Health and Safety Code, sections 105285-105286; California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Sections 37000 to 37100. Source: California Department of Public Health, 2018

Resources

California’s Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program: <https://bit.ly/childhood-lead>
DHCS’s blood lead test and anticipatory guidance: <https://bit.ly/DHCS-lead-guidance>

