

Lead screening

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of New Jersey

New Jersey requires that all Medicaid-eligible children be screened for lead. Protecting children from exposure to lead is important to a child's overall health and well-being. Even low levels of lead in blood have been shown to affect IQ, attention and achievement in school. Find more information on New Jersey Department of Health testing requirements at nj.gov/childhoodlead > [Testing](#).



Requirements

- Primary care providers (PCPs) are required to test children for lead toxicity at age 12 months and 24 months
- A state-required verbal risk assessment should be done at every periodic office visit between the ages of 6 months and 72 months (6 years)
- 5 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) indicates an elevated blood lead level (EBLL)
- All capillary (finger/heel stick) test results of $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ and higher must be confirmed by a venous draw



Screening tips

- With any EBLL, siblings should also be tested by a venous draw, even with previous non-elevated results
- When using an in-office lead analyzer test, report results to the lead state registry
- Include a lead test when ordering a hemoglobin and hematocrit blood test, so the patient doesn't need to get a separate test



Prevention tips

- Encourage a healthy diet, which may help reduce the child's absorption of lead
- Help prevent cavities: EBLL may cause tooth decay — a PCP or any medically-trained office staff can apply fluoride varnish to children ages 3 or younger to help prevent cavities



Filing lead screening claims

Screening service claims should be submitted using the appropriate CPT® codes. See our **2024 PATH Reference Guide** for more details.

Testing codes

Lead test	83655 CPT/CPT II, Modifier 52 or 59
Lead in capillary blood	10368-9, LOINC
Lead in serum or plasma	10912-4 LOINC
Lead in blood	14807-2, LOINC
Lead in blood	17052-2, LOINC
Lead in serum or plasma	25459-9, LOINC
Lead in red blood cells	27129-6, LOINC
Lead in red blood cells	32325-3, LOINC
Lead in blood	5671-3, LOINC
Lead in red blood cells	5674-7, LOINC
Lead in venous blood	77307-7, LOINC
Lead measurement, quantitative, blood	8655006, SNOMED
Lead screening, blood	35833009, SNOMED

Questions?

We're here to help. For chat options and contact information, visit UHCprovider.com/contactus.

CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association.

PCA-1-24-00916-POE-QRG_03272024

© 2024 United HealthCare Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

