

Tips for Childhood Blood Lead Level Screenings

USE THESE TIPS TO STAY COMPLIANT WITH THE BLOOD LEAD SCREENING REQUIREMENT

The Department of Health Care Services requires that all providers who conduct periodic health assessments on children provide the following:

- **Verbal or written anticipatory guidance** to the child's legal parent or guardian about the harmful effects of lead exposure for children starting at age 6 months to 72 months (6 years). At a minimum, the information should include that:
 - Children can be harmed by lead exposure from old or chipping lead-based paint and dust.
 - Children beginning to crawl, through age 72 months, are particularly at risk.
- **Blood lead level testing** should be completed on children (finger stick or venous blood draw):
 - At ages 12 months and 24 months.
 - For children between ages 12–24 months who have no record of lead testing.
 - If a child between ages 24–72 months is missing a lead test at 24 months or after.
 - When requested by a child's parent or guardian.
 - When the provider conducting the Periodic Health Assessment (PHA) for children ages 12–72 months is aware of increased risk of lead exposure/poisoning due to changes in the child's circumstances.



(continued)



CHWP participates in the following lead screening activities to ensure compliance with state requirements:

- Lead screen monitoring.
- Medical record audits.
- Member and provider education.

Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening for elevated blood levels can be conducted by finger stick test or via venous blood draw. • Confirming or retesting of blood lead levels should be conducted through the venous blood test. • Use the California Department of Public Health Guidelines for interpreting blood lead levels, follow-up activities for interpreting blood lead levels and follow-up activities for elevated blood lead levels. The California Management Guidelines on Childhood Lead Poisoning for Health Care Providers is available at https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDC/PHP/DEODC/CLPPB/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Lead_HAGs_Table.pdf. 																						
Codes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit codes as evidence of lead testing. Use the following codes to submit claims/encounters as evidence of lead testing: CPT Copyright 2017 American Medical Association. All rights reserved. CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #f4a460; color: white;"> <th>Description</th> <th>Codes¹</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Venous blood collection</td> <td>CPT 36415</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capillary blood collection</td> <td>CPT 36416</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lead test</td> <td>CPT 83655</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Abnormal lead level in blood</td> <td>ICD-10 R78.71</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Toxic effect of lead and its compounds, accidental (unintentional), initial encounter</td> <td>ICD-10 T56.OX1A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Toxic effect of lead and its compounds, accidental (unintentional), subsequent encounter</td> <td>ICD-10 T56.OX1D</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Toxic effect of lead and its compounds, accidental (unintentional), sequela</td> <td>ICD-10 T56.OX1S</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Encounter for routine child health examination without abnormal findings</td> <td>ICD-10 Z00.129</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Encounter for screening for disorder due to exposure to contaminants</td> <td>ICD-10 Z13.88</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Contact with and (suspected) exposure to lead</td> <td>ICD-10 Z77.011</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report all lead test results.² Health care providers and labs performing blood lead analysis on blood specimens must report all lead test results along with patient demographic, ordering physician and analysis data on each test performed to the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch (CLPPB) via email at EBLRSupport@cdph.ca.gov. 	Description	Codes ¹	Venous blood collection	CPT 36415	Capillary blood collection	CPT 36416	Lead test	CPT 83655	Abnormal lead level in blood	ICD-10 R78.71	Toxic effect of lead and its compounds, accidental (unintentional), initial encounter	ICD-10 T56.OX1A	Toxic effect of lead and its compounds, accidental (unintentional), subsequent encounter	ICD-10 T56.OX1D	Toxic effect of lead and its compounds, accidental (unintentional), sequela	ICD-10 T56.OX1S	Encounter for routine child health examination without abnormal findings	ICD-10 Z00.129	Encounter for screening for disorder due to exposure to contaminants	ICD-10 Z13.88	Contact with and (suspected) exposure to lead	ICD-10 Z77.011
Description	Codes ¹																						
Venous blood collection	CPT 36415																						
Capillary blood collection	CPT 36416																						
Lead test	CPT 83655																						
Abnormal lead level in blood	ICD-10 R78.71																						
Toxic effect of lead and its compounds, accidental (unintentional), initial encounter	ICD-10 T56.OX1A																						
Toxic effect of lead and its compounds, accidental (unintentional), subsequent encounter	ICD-10 T56.OX1D																						
Toxic effect of lead and its compounds, accidental (unintentional), sequela	ICD-10 T56.OX1S																						
Encounter for routine child health examination without abnormal findings	ICD-10 Z00.129																						
Encounter for screening for disorder due to exposure to contaminants	ICD-10 Z13.88																						
Contact with and (suspected) exposure to lead	ICD-10 Z77.011																						
Exceptions	<p>You are not required to perform a lead screening if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The legal parent/guardian refuses the lead screening and signs a voluntary refusal statement. • In your professional judgment, lead testing poses a greater risk for the child than lead poisoning. <p>You must document reasons for not providing the lead screening or not obtaining the voluntary refusal statement in the child’s medical record.</p>																						
Tools available	<p>We offer the following tools to help you identify children who need a lead test.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic care gap reports by email. • Cozeva® web-based care gap reports. <p>Contact your California Health & Wellness Plan (CHWP) representative for information on how to sign up for the care gap report or how to review the reports.</p>																						

¹Resources available from the 2022 CPT® Professional Edition published by American Medical Association and ICD-10-CM Expert for Physicians published by Optum360®.

²California Health and Safety Code, Section 124130: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=124130