



LSC

# Lead Screening in Children



## Why it Matters

There are no safe levels of lead in the blood, and even low levels can cause permanent and disabling effects such as developmental delays, difficulty learning, and behavioral issues. The effects of exposure are more harmful for children under 6 years of age, who also are more likely to be exposed due to their hand-to-mouth behavior. And because most children have no obvious or immediate symptoms, lead exposure can be difficult to recognize, making early lead screenings critical.<sup>1,2</sup>



## Eligible Population

Members who turn 2 years old during the measurement year.



## Measure Description

The percentage of children 2 years of age who had one or more capillary or venous blood tests for lead poisoning by their second birthday.



## Key Tips

- ✓ Educate parents on the importance of screening for lead poisoning. While the child may not be exposed at home, other environments may present a risk.
- ✓ Take advantage of every office visit (including sick visits) to perform lead testing.
- ✓ Consider a standing order for in-office lead testing.
- ✓ Provide in-office capillary testing.

### ✓ Acceptable Documentation

Test results containing a date and result other than “unknown.”

### ✗ Not Acceptable Documentation

- Assessment alone. Be sure to order a lead test and ensure it is completed.
- Test results without a date or result. “Unknown” is not considered a result.

### ⊕ Measure Codes

**CPT:** 83655

**LOINC:** 10368-9, 10912-4, 14807-2, 17052-2, 25459-9, 27129-6, 32325-3, 5674-7, 77307-7

#### References

<sup>1</sup>CDC: About Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention, [cdc.gov/lead-prevention/about/index.html](https://cdc.gov/lead-prevention/about/index.html)

<sup>2</sup>CDC: Lead Exposure Symptoms and Complications, [cdc.gov/lead-prevention/symptoms-complications/index.html](https://cdc.gov/lead-prevention/symptoms-complications/index.html)