

Lead Screening in Children (LSC)

By collaborating, we can improve health outcomes for your patients, our members. This MDwise tip sheet provides best practices and tips that can optimize HEDIS scores and identify opportunities to improve patient care.

What Is the Measure?

This measure assesses the percentage of children two (2) years of age who received one (1) or more capillary or venous blood tests for lead poisoning on or before their second birthday.

Effective January 1, 2023, to ensure uniformity between House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1313 and the Medicaid Early and Periodic, Screening, Diagnostics and Treatment (EPDST) guidelines.

Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) is requiring all providers to follow the steps below:

1. Children should receive a blood lead test between 9 and 15 months of age or as close as reasonably possible to the patient's appointment.
2. Children should have another blood lead test between 21 and 27 months of age or as close as reasonably possible to the patient's appointment.
3. Any child between 28 and 72 months of age without a record of any prior blood lead test must have a blood lead test performed as soon as possible.
 - o All blood lead testing (per IC-41-39.4-3) must be reported to IDOH within one (1) week of receiving the result. Both providers and laboratories are obligated to report any result received or analyzed.

IHCP-Covered Codes to Identify LSC:

Description	Codes
Lead Tests	CPT: 83655

Earn incentive dollars when your members meet this measure!

For example, a panel of 750 members = \$375/month

[Physician Pay for Value \(mdwise.org\)](https://www.mdwise.org)



How to Improve Your Quality Score:

- **All children should be screened** for a history of lead exposure at well-visits, per Bright Futures/AAP Periodicity Schedule [Periodicity Schedule](#). Screening or risk assessment questionnaires are readily available online and can be incorporated into routine, well-visit workflow.
- **Make every office visit count.** If time allows for additional quality procedures, avoid missed opportunities by taking advantage of every office visit, including sick visits and daycare physicals, to provide a well-child visit, immunizations, lead testing, developmental screening and counseling.
- **Both the date of the test and the test result** must be documented with the notation of the lead screening test.
- **Obtaining a lead screen sample** in the practice setting (by venipuncture or CLIA-waived point-of-care (POC) screening) is associated with higher screening rates. This is more successful than sending the child/family to an external lab for a lead test.
- **Consider a standing order** for in-office testing.
- **Identify children at greatest risk** and screen beginning at six (6) months of age. Be sure to utilize standardized lead screening questionnaires to see if a child is at risk.
- **Educate parents** about the dangers of lead poisoning and the importance of testing.
- **Complete a Supply Order Form** [Health: Lead & Healthy Homes Division: Home \(in.gov\)](#) to request screening and shipping supplies from Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) – Indiana Lead and Health Homes Program.
- **New submitters to the ISDH Laboratory** will need to request a provider number and sampling instructions from the Indiana Lead and Health Homes Program. For requests, new submitters will need to call (317) 233-1296.