

Lead Screening in Children (LSC)

HEDIS Tip Sheet MY 2024



Measure definition

The percentage of members age 2 who had one or more capillary or venous lead blood tests for lead poisoning completed before or on their second birthday

Plans(s)	Quality Program(s)	Collection and Reporting
Medicaid	NCQA Health Plan Ratings Select Medicaid State Reporting	Administrative: Claim/Encounter Data Hybrid: Medical Record Review Claim/Encounter Data

Best practices for quality care

- Educate parents about the importance of testing and the dangers of lead poisoning. While the member may not be exposed at home, other environments such as daycare may present a new threat. The risks of not being tested include the possibility of behavioral and cognitive issues.
- Provide education to parents that lead testing is mandatory for young children in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Visit mass.gov (MA) or dhhs.nh.gov (NH) for additional information for providers and parents or caregivers.
- Administer lead tests at 6 to 12 months and 18 to 24 months during well-child and sick visits.
- If a child has not had a lead test by age 2, it should still be performed, even though this will not count towards the measure.

Quality score improvement tips

- Assessment alone does not meet criteria. Be sure to order the lead test and that it is completed.
- The date of service and test result must be documented in the medical record. Lead testing must be completed prior to or on the 2nd birthday. If performed later, it will not count toward the measure.

Exclusions

- Members who used hospice services or elected to use a hospice benefit anytime during the measurement year.
- Members who died anytime during the measurement year.

Numerator codes

There is a large list of approved NCQA codes used to identify services included in this measure. The following are the approved codes. For more information, please refer to the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC). CPT II codes can be accepted as supplemental data, reducing the need for chart collection and review during the HEDIS hybrid season.

Codes	Descriptions
CPT	83655 Lead test

How WellSense can help

HEDIS tip sheets are designed to help WellSense providers improve and report the quality of care delivered to WellSense members across key metrics.

If you have questions around HEDIS documentation and quality measures, please email the Quality Team at WS_Quality_Dept@wellsense.org.