

Lead screening

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of New Jersey quick reference guide

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](#).

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 [2025 PATH Reference Guide](#) for more details.

Testing codes	
Lead test	83655 CPT/CPT II,
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 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.



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