

# Provider Bulletin

## HEDIS® News You Can Use

### Lead Screening in Children (LSC-E)



#### Importance of lead screening

Lead is a silent poison - even small amounts can be harmful. Young children are at a higher risk for lead poisoning because they often put objects in their mouths. They absorb lead more easily and are more vulnerable to its neurotoxic effects, as their brain and nervous systems are still developing.

This bulletin offers information on any measure changes, best practice suggestions, links to codes and free resources.



#### Common reasons for Gaps in Care

- Completion of verbal lead risk assessments only.
- Lead testing completed after the 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

For members assigned but choosing not to establish care, go to [MC PCP Change Request Form](#)



#### Arizona State Lead Screening Guidelines

The Arizona Department of Health Services (**AZDHS**) recommends all children receive blood lead testing at ages 1 and 2 years.

The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (**AHCCCS**) **requires** all children enrolled to receive a blood lead test at 12 and 24 months of age (AMPM 430).



#### Measure specifications, codes

Children who turn 2 years of age and receive one or more capillary or venous lead blood test by their 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

- ❖ *LSC-E is now strictly captured via electronic data sources, so accurate coding is critical.*

For more detailed measure information and up-to-date codes, go to [MC Gap Closure Reference Guide](#)



## Where lead might be hiding in Arizona

- **Older homes:** Lead-based paint and dust (pre-1978).
- **Schools & Child-care:** Aging plumbing (monitored by Arizona's Lead Testing in Drinking Water Program).
- **Soil:** Especially industrial zones and highways.
- **Imported foods:** Candies and spices like tamarind and turmeric.
- **Traditional remedies:** Products like *greta* and *azarcon*.
- **Antique/imported items:** Toys and ceramics with lead-based paint or glaze.
- **Occupational exposure:** Parents working in construction, demolition, auto repair, or recycling.
- **Hobbies:** Activities like target shooting, hunting, fishing, ceramics, furniture refinishing, stained glass, and jewelry making.



## Great resources

Arizona Department of Health Services [Lead Poisoning](#)

American Academy of Pediatrics Bright Futures [Periodicity schedule](#)

**Thank you for the care you provide  
to our members**



## Best Practices Tips to improve results

- **Routine electronic medical record (EMR) prompts:** Embed reminders in the EMR to flag lead screening at 12- and 24-month well-child visits.
- **Standing orders:** Empower staff to collect capillary specimens for initial screening; use venous samples for confirmation if needed.
- **Family education:** Share simple, clear guidance on lead risks and the importance of timely testing.
- **Positive engagement:** Use affirming language like *"We will do your child's lead test today"* to build trust and encourage participation.
- **Access and follow-up:** Make blood draws convenient, send reminders for missed tests, and communicate results quickly.
- **Staff training:** Equip care teams with up-to-date screening guidelines and consistent messaging.