

Lead Screening in Children

Fact Sheet



Pediatric Lead Screening in Children FAQs

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT)

Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS)

Definition

The EPSDT benefit provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children under age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid

HEDIS is a comprehensive set of standardized performance measures used in the managed care industry to monitor performance and opportunities for quality improvement

Blood Lead Screening Requirements

Every child enrolled in the **NJ FamilyCare program (Medicaid)**, must be given a blood lead test at the following ages:

- Complete a blood lead test at **12 months** old (between 9 and 18 months)
- **AND** again at **24 months** old (between 18 and 26 months)
- Children between 26 and 72 months old who have **NOT** previously had a blood lead test should be tested immediately

Any blood lead test **after the age of 2** is considered late in HEDIS reporting

Providers should educate parents/guardians regarding the importance of having their child tested for lead as well as keeping appointments

Blood lead screenings should be completed **on or before their second birthday** – it must be a capillary or venous blood lead test

Verbal Risk Assessment

The verbal risk assessment must be asked at every visit with children who are between **6 months and 72 months** old. The verbal risk assessment must be documented in the medical record for each well-child visit starting at 6 months to 72 months old.

To view a list of questions, visit aetnabetterhealth.com/newjersey/providers/resources/lead

If any answer is ‘yes’ or ‘I don’t know’, the risk is considered high. All children at high risk need a blood lead test immediately, even if younger than 6 months old

The questions must be asked at every subsequent visit since risk can change

Not required to be completed under HEDIS guidelines. To better evaluate a child for a blood screening, we recommend completing a verbal risk assessment

