

Tips for Childhood Blood Lead Level Screenings

The state Department of Health Care Service (DHCS) considers patients on any government assistance program (including those with Medi-Cal / Gold Coast Health Plan [GCHP] eligibility¹) at-risk for lead exposure and requires they are tested according to clinical guidelines.

Blood lead level testing should be completed on children (finger stick or venous blood draw) at 12 months and 24 months of age, or if the patient has not been tested before 6 years of age.

Don't forget!

- Provide anticipatory guidance to all patients due for lead testing.
 - For health education materials, visit the Health Education webpage on www.GoldCoastHealthPlan.org.
- Document a parental refusal in the medical record including the signed refusal form.
- Use the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Guidelines for interpreting blood lead levels².
- Report any abnormal test results to the California Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch³.
- Bill GCHP using CPT code **83655**.



Best Practices

- Use Gap Reports identifying children who need testing.
 - If you are not receiving Gap Reports and would like to receive them, please contact QualityImprovement@goldchp.org.
- Perform point-of-care lead testing during well-child visits.
- Create alerts in your Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system to notify you when lead testing is due.

¹ https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDCPHP/DEODC/CLPPB/Pages/screen_regs_3.aspx

² https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDCPHP/DEODC/CLPPB/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Lead_HAGs_Table.pdf

³ <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDCPHP/DEODC/CLPPB/Pages/CLPPBhome.aspx>