



A Case For Lead Screening

Providers,

We need your help.

The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) requires a **venous or capillary lead screening** for every Medicaid child at 12 and 24 months of age as part of the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPDST).

The AAP policy statement, “Lead Exposure in Children: Prevention, Detection, and Management”, which was reaffirmed in January of 2009, indicates that most of the elevated blood levels were from the Medicaid eligible population. According to the policy statement, the CDC and AAP support lead screening of **Medicaid eligible** children unless a state can acquire an exemption from the requirement. It is also recommended that practitioners provide anticipatory guidance to parents of all infants and toddlers regarding lead exposure prevention.

Virginia Premier Health Plan Inc.(VPH) collects Quality data each year as part of Healthcare Effectiveness Data Information Set (HEDIS®). HEDIS is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and is used as an outcome measurement of Quality. **The HEDIS measure for lead screening requires one lead screening on or before a child’s 2nd birthday. The Lead screening measure is also included in the VPH Pay For Performance program. Currently, Medicaid Plans in Virginia only average in the 25th percentile for Lead testing.**

Best Practice: Obtain the specimen while the patient is still in the office. During HEDIS medical record reviews, we have found the compliance rate for offices drawing the specimen during the visit is consistently much higher than when the test is ordered for another location.

VPH understands that Lead Risk Assessment Tools are used by some practitioners instead of a blood test. If you are using such a tool, please consider switching to a capillary or venous screening for your VPH patients.

Thank you for your consideration.

References upon request.