



Lead Screening in Children (LSC)

HEDIS measure overview

Please note that the information offered in this flyer is based on Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) technical specifications. It is not meant to replace your clinical judgment.

What is the LSC measure?

The Lead Screening in Children (LSC) measure is one of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) HEDIS measures. It is important because lead exposure can cause organ damage, affect the brain, and impact intellectual abilities and behavior. These negative effects are irreparable. Unfortunately, symptoms of lead poisoning are not obvious, and any level is unsafe. The goal of the blood lead test is to detect abnormal results early.¹

Who is included in the LSC measure?

The eligible population for this measure includes Medicaid-covered children who turn 2 years of age during the measurement year.

How does a patient become compliant?

An eligible child should have at least one lead capillary or venous blood test on or before the child's second birthday. Documentation in the medical record must include both of the following:

- Date of test
- Test result or finding; unknown is not considered a result/finding

Exclusions

- Patients using hospice services
- Patients who died any time during the measurement year

Measure best practices

- Inform parents about the dangers of lead exposure and the importance of testing.
- Educate parents about sources of lead and prevention. Examples include:
 - Reduce exposure to dust, a major source of lead.
 - Emphasize the importance of iron, calcium and eating regularly. Lead is absorbed more readily on an empty stomach.
 - Children and pregnant women should not enter homes built before 1978 being renovated.
 - Children should not have access to surfaces painted with lead-based paint.
- Perform tests in office.
- Take advantage of every office visit, including sick visits, to perform lead testing.
- Use standardized lead screening questionnaires to assess risk.
- Consider using a MedTox® test, which utilizes a finger prick for blood sample.

LSC coding

Code type	Code	Description
CPT	83655	Lead test

1. National Committee for Quality Assurance. (2025). HEDIS Measurement Year 2025: Volume 1: Narrative.

Information regarding inclusion, compliance and exclusions for this measure were sourced from the HEDIS Measurement Year 2025: Volume 2: Technical Specifications for Health Plans report.

The codes provided in this document are limited to those that will address care opportunities for the measures included based on current guidelines. This information is subject to change and, therefore, not intended to serve as official coding or legal advice. All coding should be considered on a case-by-case basis and be supported by medical necessity and the appropriate documentation in the medical record.

Coding included above is based on the NCQA Value Set, but each state's fee schedule determines which codes are reimbursed. Please consult your respective state's fee schedule for reimbursement information.

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