

October 11, 2024

UPDATED: Important Information on Pediatric Blood Lead Screening

Dear providers,

The Health Plan of San Mateo (HPSM) is writing to remind you of blood lead screening requirements for young children between the ages of six months to six years (i.e. 72 months). This is in accordance with All Plan Letter (APL) 20-016 issued by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

Important Reminders:

- **Providers must provide oral or written guidance to the parent(s) or guardian(s)** of a child that includes information about the harm of exposure to lead, particularly from the time the child begins to crawl until 72 months of age.
- **If a blood lead screening is not performed, providers are required to document the reason(s).** In situations where consent is refused, providers must document this in a member's medical record by obtaining a signed statement of voluntary refusal. If a provider is not able to obtain a signed statement of voluntary refusal, the provider must document this in the member's medical record.

To aid clinics in scheduling and administering screenings, HPSM offers a monthly patient-level eReport called, "Blood Lead Screening Report." The report is available to all primary care clinics in which assigned children are due for a blood lead screening.

To access eReports, sign in or register for the portal here:

<https://www.hpsm.org/provider/portal>

Review APL 20-016 here:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2020/APL20-016.pdf>

Access the English version of the Child Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch (CLPPB) anticipatory guidance here:

[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/CLPPB/CDPH%20Document%20Library/CLPPB-antguid\(E\)_ADA.pdf](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/CLPPB/CDPH%20Document%20Library/CLPPB-antguid(E)_ADA.pdf)

Access the Spanish version of the CLPPB anticipatory guidance here:

[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/CLPPB/CDPH%20Document%20Library/CLPPB-antguid\(S\).pdf](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/CLPPB/CDPH%20Document%20Library/CLPPB-antguid(S).pdf)

Review Updated Childhood Blood Lead Screening Guidelines:

<https://www.hpsm.org/provider/resources/healthmatters-md/article/healthmattersmd/2024/09/05/review-updated-childhood-blood-lead-screening-guidelines>

Review the Standard of Care Guidelines for Blood Lead Testing:

https://www.hpsm.org/docs/default-source/provider-services/standard-of-care-guidelines-for-blood-lead-testing.pdf?sfvrsn=fc575789_2

Please direct questions to HPSM Provider Services at PSInquiries@hpsm.org.

Thank you,

The Health Plan of San Mateo