



ISSUE DATE September 13, 2016	EFFECTIVE DATE September 13, 2016	NUMBER 01-16-29, 08-16-27, 09-16-27, 31-16-31, 33-16-26, 55-16-01
SUBJECT Environmental Lead Investigations		BY  Leesa M. Allen, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

IMPORTANT REMINDER: All providers must revalidate their MA enrollment every 5 years. Providers should log into PROMISe to check their revalidation date and submit a revalidation application at least 60 days prior. Enrollment (revalidation) applications may be found at http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/promise/enrollmentinformation/S_001994. Providers who enrolled on or before SEPTEMBER 25, 2011 must complete the revalidation process as soon as possible. DHS must complete the revalidation for all providers enrolled on or before September 25, 2011 by September 25, 2016.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform providers enrolled in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program of the:

- Coverage conditions for comprehensive environmental lead investigations for an MA beneficiary under 21 years of age;
- Procedures for an Environmental Lead Investigation (ELI) provider to enroll in the MA Program; and
- Procedures for submitting claims for comprehensive environmental lead investigations.

SCOPE:

While this bulletin contains information pertinent to physicians, certified registered nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, outpatient hospitals and independent medical surgical clinics, who render blood lead screening to MA beneficiaries under 21 years of age in the MA Managed Care delivery system, it pertains specifically to ELI providers in the MA Fee-For-Service delivery system.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate toll free number for your provider type

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs Web site at
<http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/healthcaremedicalassistance/index.htm>

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

The MA Program provides coverage for screening of blood lead levels (BLL) of all MA eligible children under 21 years of age, if indicated by risk assessment, or for those children with a history or symptoms of lead exposure. Universal lead toxicity screening, by 12 months and at 24 months of age, is a required component of the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program. Providers are required to screen children between the ages of 36 and 72 months of age if they have not been previously screened for lead poisoning. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that a provider use venous blood samples for the blood lead screening, when feasible as elevated initial blood lead results obtained on capillary screening specimens are presumptive and should be confirmed using a venous specimen.

The CDC indicates that there is no safe level of lead in children; and advises that a provider offer education related to preventing lead exposure to families with young children. For a child who is found to have a BLL less than 5 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$), a provider should perform follow-up blood lead monitoring.

In accordance with guidance from the CDC, a provider should manage the condition of a child who is found to have an elevated BLL that is greater than or equal to 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$. Management should include follow-up blood tests and consideration of possible sources of contamination including housing, food, and toys. Locating the source of lead contamination is an integral part of the management and treatment of lead toxicity.

To that end, a provider may submit an order to an enrolled ELI provider for a comprehensive environmental lead investigation for an MA beneficiary under 21 years of age with a blood lead screening result of at least 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ and where there are environmental influences for lead contamination. The order for a comprehensive environmental lead investigation must include a primary diagnosis code of toxic effect of lead and its components.

The ordering provider may contact the local health department or state health center for a list of environmental vendors. The ordering provider should verify, through contact with the ELI provider, that the ELI provider is enrolled in the MA Program. The investigation is only compensable through the MA Program when performed by an enrolled ELI provider. Additionally, the provider may refer to the Department of Health's website at: <http://www.health.pa.gov/My%20Health/Infant%20and%20Childrens%20Health/Lead%20Poisoning%20Prevention%20and%20Control/> for information on lead poisoning.

PROCEDURE:

The Department of Human Services (Department) will pay an MA enrolled ELI provider for a comprehensive environmental lead investigation for an MA beneficiary under 21 years of age with a blood lead screening result of at least 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ and where there are environmental influences for lead contamination.

A comprehensive environmental lead investigation should include analysis by use of portable x-ray fluorescence analyzer on all painted surfaces, an interview with the family of the child to gather basic information about the habits of the child, and, finally, written recommendations to the owner of the house/apartment for the immediate and permanent removal or reduction of the lead sources.

Enrollment

ELI providers may enroll in the MA Program, as provider type 55 (vendor), specialty 225 (environment). To qualify, the ELI provider must employ or contract with at least one health professional who is either a nurse or sanitarian who possesses a current certification from Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry as an environmental risk assessor or a lead inspector.

Information on how to complete and submit an enrollment application is available on the Department’s website at: http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/promise/enrollmentinformation/S_001994. At this time, ELI providers are unable to submit online provider enrollment applications using the Department’s secure web portal. ELI providers may download a paper application and submit it with the required supporting documentation by mail, e-mail or fax using the instructions in the application. As part of the enrollment process, all providers will undergo the required screening activities prior to enrollment in the MA Program.

Billing

The Department requires an order by an MA enrolled provider that includes a primary diagnosis code of toxic effect of lead and its components to an enrolled ELI provider.

Enrolled ELI providers may submit claims for environmental lead investigations using procedure code T1029 (Comprehensive environmental lead investigation):

CPT Code	PT/Spec	Description	MA Fee
T1029	55/225	Comprehensive environmental lead investigation, not including laboratory analysis, per dwelling	\$350.00

A primary diagnosis code of toxic effect of lead must be on the claim submission. The following is a list of acceptable primary diagnosis codes:

- R78.71: Abnormal lead level in blood
- T56.0X1A: Toxic effect of lead and its compounds, accidental (unintentional), initial encounter
- T56.0X1D: Toxic effect of lead and its compounds, accidental (unintentional), subsequent encounter

- T56.0X1S: Toxic effect of lead and its compounds, accidental (unintentional), sequela
- T56.0X2A: Toxic effect of lead and its compounds, intentional self-harm, initial encounter
- T56.0X2D: Toxic effect of lead and its compounds, intentional self-harm, subsequent encounter
- T56.0X2S: Toxic effect of lead and its compounds, intentional self-harm, sequela
- T56.0X3A: Toxic effect of lead and its compounds, assault, initial encounter
- T56.0X3D: Toxic effect of lead and its compounds, assault, subsequent encounter
- T56.0X3S: Toxic effect of lead and its compounds, assault, sequela
- T56.0X4A: Toxic effect of lead and its compounds, undetermined, initial encounter
- T56.0X4D: Toxic effect of lead and its compounds, undetermined, subsequent encounter
- T56.0X4S: Toxic effect of lead and its compounds, undetermined, sequela

The enrolled ELI provider performing the investigation shall send a copy of results of the investigation to the ordering provider to ensure appropriate management of the child's health condition.

The enrolled ELI provider should maintain a copy of the referring provider's order for the environmental lead investigation for a period of at least four years to allow verification of information furnished as a basis for payment under the MA Program.

Payment Limitations

MA payment is limited to:

- the enrolled ELI provider's time and activities during an on-site investigation of a child's primary residence and is not available for testing of any substances (water, paint, etc.) which are sent to a laboratory for analysis.
- one environmental lead investigation per household for all children living in the home or residence.

OBSOLETE

MA Bulletin 99-93-12, titled, "Environmental Lead Investigations", issued December 15, 1993, is obsolete with the issuance of this bulletin.