

**National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week: October 20–26, 2019**

Each year, National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW) is held to increase lead poisoning prevention awareness in an effort to reduce childhood exposure to lead.

Here are some quick facts:

- All Medicaid members are required to be tested for lead levels.
- All Medicaid-eligible children are considered at risk for lead toxicity and **MUST** receive blood lead level screening tests for lead poisoning starting at 9 months of age, as well as other ages based on history and risk assessment.
- Primary care practitioners (PCPs) are **REQUIRED** (regardless of responses to the lead screening questions) to ensure that children be screened for lead toxicity from 9 months to 18 months and again from 2 to 6 years of age. Risk questions should be asked at every visit thereafter.
- Keystone First members with a venous lead draw showing an elevated blood level of  $\geq 5$   $\mu\text{l/dl}$ , are eligible for an environmental lead investigation.

**To help you comply with these standards PCPs are reimbursed for blood level screening services, if they are performed in your office and utilize the MEDTOX process.**

MEDTOX Laboratories provides PCPs with supplies to conduct convenient in-office blood level screenings, via finger sticks, as well the mailing supplies to return the samples back to MEDTOX for testing and processing. PCPs that utilize this process are reimbursed a \$10.00 fee after submitting a claim with the CPT Code 83655.

Visit our website at [www.keystonefirstpa.com](http://www.keystonefirstpa.com) → **Providers** → **Resources** → **Lead Level** for the complete process and appropriate forms. Should you have any questions please reach out to your Provider Account Executive or Provider Services at 1-800-521-6007.

Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Tip Hotline: 1-866-833-9718, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Secure and confidential. You may remain anonymous.

October 20, 2019

Coverage by Vista Health Plan, an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.