



**To: Keystone First Primary Care Providers**

**Date: July 6, 2022**

**Re: Important change to Blood Lead Reference Value**

Keystone First will follow the guidelines recently released by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) Medical Assistance (MA) Bulletin (MAB) 01-22-13, regarding an update to the Blood Lead Reference Value.

### What's new?

- **The Blood Lead Reference Value for children is being updated from 5 µg/dL to 3.5 µg/dL.**

As a reminder, The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and DHS have requirements for lead toxicity screening for all Medicaid-eligible children.

- All Medicaid-eligible children are considered at risk for lead toxicity and must receive blood lead level screening tests for lead poisoning.
- 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 old and again from 2 years to 6 years old.
- Risk questions should be asked at every visit thereafter.

Refer to Pennsylvania's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program Periodicity Schedule for guidance, or visit [www.keystonefirstpa.com](http://www.keystonefirstpa.com) → Providers → Resources → EPSDT

Keystone First has contracted with Accredited Environmental Technologies (AET), the Philadelphia Department of Public Health's Lead and Healthy Homes Program (LHHP), and Montgomery County Department of Public Health to provide ELI services to our members. Referral forms are available at [www.keystonefirstpa.com](http://www.keystonefirstpa.com) → Providers → Resources → EPSDT → EPSDT forms and administration.

The complete MAB can be found on our website at [www.keystonefirstpa.com](http://www.keystonefirstpa.com) → Providers → Resources → Communications → MA Bulletins.

If you have any questions about this notification, please contact your Provider Account Executive or Provider Services at **1-800-521-6007**.