

## HEDIS FEEDBACK, 2019 - #4

### Lead Screening

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** *The CDC states that* there are approximately half a million U.S. children ages 1-5 with blood lead levels above 5 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL), the reference level at which CDC recommends public health actions be initiated and that no safe blood lead level in children has been identified.

At-risk populations include:

- Those that are poor.
- Those that are members of racial-ethnic minority groups.
- Those that are recent immigrants.
- Those that live in older, poorly maintained rental properties, or
- Those who have parents who are exposed to lead at work.
- Those that are living at or below the poverty line and who live in older housing are at the greatest risk.

The Washington Department of Health recommends the following blood lead test on children with the following risk factors:

- Lives in or regularly visits any house built before 1950.
- Lives in or regularly visits any house built before 1978 with recent or ongoing renovations or remodeling.
- From a low income family; income <130% of the poverty level. (***Federal law mandates screening for all children covered by Medicaid***)\*\*
- Known to have a sibling or frequent playmate with an elevated blood lead level.
- Is a recent immigrant, refugee, foreign adoptee, or child in foster care.
- Has a parent or principal caregiver who works professionally or recreationally with lead.
- Uses traditional, folk, or ethnic remedies or cosmetics.

**\*\*The Health Care Authority has applied for a waiver to perform targeted testing in children covered by Apple Health. The waiver request is currently pending.**

Additional risks: Some candies imported from Mexico have been found to contain lead. Certain ingredients used in the candies, such as chili powder and tamarindo, are found to be the most common source of exposure. Lead has also been found in the ink of some imported candy wrappers as well as in nonregulated imported spices such as turmeric.

**LEAD MEASURE:** The percentage of children 2 years of age who had one or more capillary or venous blood tests for lead poisoning by their second birthday. Please use **CPT CODE: 83655**.

For questions about HEDIS, please visit our provider website at <https://www.coordinatedcarehealth.com/providers.html>.

Our “2019 HEDIS Reference Guide” is located here:

<https://www.coordinatedcarehealth.com/content/dam/centene/Coordinated%20Care/provider/PDFs/QI/508-WA-HEDIS-QuickRefGuide.pdf>.

For more information, visit [www.ncqa.org](http://www.ncqa.org) for additional information regarding HEDIS.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact us at 877-644-4613 if you have any questions!

\* HEDIS is a set of standardized performance measures designed to ensure that purchasers and consumers have the information they need to reliably compare the performance of health care plans and is the most used performance measure in the managed care industry.