

Bulletin Number: MSA 18-52

Distribution: Practitioners, Local Health Departments, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Clinics, Medicaid Health Plans, Tribal Health Centers, Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans, Community Mental Health Services Programs

Issued: December 28, 2018

Subject: Clarification of Blood Lead Level Test Results

Effective: February 1, 2019

Programs Affected: Medicaid, Healthy Michigan Plan, MICHild

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) periodicity schedule recommends that children be tested for blood lead poisoning at 12 and 24 months of age, or between 36 to 72 months of age if they have not previously been tested. In 2012, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) established a blood lead level reference value of 5 µg/dL at which evaluations and interventions are indicated. While the AAP supports this reference level, both the AAP and CDC caution that there is no established safe level of lead for children.

Achieving accurate and precise measurements for blood lead concentrations, particularly measurements below 5 µg/dL, can be an analytical challenge as there may be inconsistency in reported results due to the variability of test methods. While the AAP and Medicaid policy indicate certain actions should begin at a blood lead level of 5 µg/dL, providers may use their own clinical judgement in determining the appropriate actions in the medical management of children potentially exposed to lead whose blood lead levels are below this level. These activities may include, but are not limited to, repeat testing, follow-up evaluations, treatment services, referral for nurse case management services through the local health department, and referral for environmental investigation.

Manual Maintenance

Retain this bulletin until the information is incorporated into the Medicaid Provider Manual.

Questions

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Provider Inquiry, Department of Health and Human Services, P.O. Box 30731, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8231, or e-mail at ProviderSupport@michigan.gov. When you submit an e-mail, be sure to include your name, affiliation, NPI number, and phone number so you may be contacted if necessary. Providers may phone toll-free 1-800-292-2550.

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Stiffler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Kathy Stiffler, Acting Director
Medical Services Administration