

# SPECIAL eBULLETIN

FOR PROFESSIONAL PROVIDERS

NOVEMBER 9, 2018

## IMPORTANT REQUIREMENTS FOR CHIP PARTICIPANTS

### LEAD BLOOD TESTS AND DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS

Working with health care providers, we're helping institute care teams and nationally accepted, evidence-based guidelines. Often these models only require small changes to the way most practitioners already deliver care. And more important, they're proven to add up to better patient outcomes and lower costs.

Early screenings are among the best resources to rule out or expedite treatment if an issue is identified. This is especially true of lead blood tests and developmental screenings for children.

We would like to remind you about the preventive care requirements with respect to lead blood tests and developmental screenings for children. These requirements are in place to safeguard the health of children covered under the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

#### Requirements for Lead Blood Tests

Lead poisoning can lead to serious mental and physical problems throughout children's lives. Lead poisoning isn't simply a paint-related issue that occurs only from old houses. Lead poisoning can come from other places where children play, like around old water pipes, soil that is tracked into the house, or even from the child's favorite toys.

Despite the results of lead screening questions to determine risk, the DOH requires blood testing on all children with CHIP insurance. Furthermore, CHIP quality of care is measured by the performance of lead testing and developmental screening.

Therefore, currently providers who care for CHIP members are required to perform lead blood tests for patients ages 9 months to 2 years, submit claims for these screenings with the results/findings of the testing, and submit the results to health insurers that administer CHIP.



The following requirements/procedures apply for lead blood tests for CHIP patients:

- You can perform the lead blood test with the routine hemoglobin test performed at 12 months for anemia, per Bright Futures™. Or, you can simply complete one finger stick for both the hemoglobin and lead tests without a blood draw.
- The lead blood test is reimbursable if submitted using procedure code 83655. Remember to include findings/results of the blood test along with the claim.
- There is no out-of-pocket cost to members for lead blood tests.
- If you perform the lead blood test with the hemoglobin test, you must submit claims for BOTH the hemoglobin AND lead blood tests.
- The lead blood test must be performed by a laboratory which participates in the CHIP network.
  - Please refer to the online Provider Directory (Find a Doctor or Rx) for the most complete, up-to-date listing of participating independent laboratories, including specialty labs, and for addresses and contact information for those labs.
  - The online Provider Directory is available on the home page of the Provider Resource Center:
    - Click the **Provider Directory** link at the bottom of the home page.
    - Click on the **Pick a plan** link, and then enter “CHIP” to see CHIP plans – select plan based on your network participation
    - Enter “**Laboratory**” in the **Type name, hospital, clinic, specialty, or condition field**.
    - Enter the desired location and distance.
    - Click **Search – CHIP members can use any in-network laboratory – look for the green checkmark noting “IN NETWORK”**
- **Important note: You must submit the claim with the date that the lead blood test was performed and the results of the test.**

### **Requirements/Procedures for Developmental Screenings**

Developmental screenings can assist in early detection and intervention of autism, learning disabilities, and developmental delays. Currently, providers who care for CHIP members are required to perform developmental screenings for patients according to American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines for annual screening of children 3 years of age and younger for developmental disabilities.

The following requirements/procedures will apply for developmental screenings for CHIP patients:

- You can perform developmental screenings during well-child visits.
- Developmental screenings are reimbursable if submitted using procedure code 96110.
- There is no out-of-pocket cost to members for developmental screenings.
- If you perform the developmental screening during a well-child visit, you must submit claims for BOTH the developmental screening AND the well-child visit.

Following these requirements and procedures is important to ensuring the health and well-being of your patients. Furthermore, if you are participating in True Performance, failure to follow these requirements could potentially affect your reimbursement rates.

If you have any questions, please contact Provider Relations.

Highmark appreciates the quality care you provide to our members, your patients. Working together, we can achieve more effective patient outcomes.