

MHIL Provider Memo

Molina Healthcare of Illinois, Inc. | May 23, 2024

Testing for Lead Levels In Children

Molina Healthcare of Illinois (Molina) stresses the importance of testing children for lead levels in their blood. Lead can enter through the skin, inhalation, or swallowing a contaminated object. Even small amounts of lead can cause serious health, developmental, and behavioral problems.

HFS-recommended testing schedule

According to the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS), lead poisoning is the most common preventable pediatric health problem in the United States today. Children should be tested before the ages of 12 months and 24 months. Children over the age of 24 months, up to their 7th birthday, should receive a blood lead test if one has not already been done.

Either a capillary test or a venous blood draw is sufficient for testing lead levels. HFS medical programs cover pediatric blood lead tests. Blood lead screening is a covered service for all Molina members in all lines of business.

Resources for providers

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has a robust Lead Poisoning Prevention program offering ample information and resources. For instance, providers can help screen patient risk using the [Childhood Lead Risk Questionnaire](#) and download information for patients about preventing lead exposure in their homes and surroundings.

Log into the Availity Essentials portal and look under the Resources tab for a [HEDIS® Tip Sheet on lead screening in children](#).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers many informational fliers on its website. Visit the [Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program page](#) for more.

Lead stored in the body can also affect an unborn child. The CDC recommends discussing this with pregnant patients as well. Providers can find guidance on the CDC webpage [Pregnancy and Lead](#).

Resources for patients

Chicago residents can visit chicagowaterquality.org or call 311 for information and resources on testing their water, such as:

- Obtaining a free water-sample test kit that will be picked up after completion.
- Scheduling a water sample visit.
- Registering for a water filter.

All Illinois residents can visit IDPH at [Lead Poisoning Prevention \(illinois.gov\)](http://LeadPoisoningPrevention(illinois.gov)) for information and resources.

Questions?

We're here to help. Contact your dedicated Provider Relations Manager or email the Provider Network Management team at MHILProviderNetworkManagement@MolinaHealthcare.com. To help identify your dedicated Provider Relations Manager, visit our [Service Area page](#) at MolinaHealthcare.com.

Provider portal alert

Providers no longer have direct access to the Molina Legacy Provider Portal. Ensure that you and your staff have access to streamlined claims management, authorizations, eligibility/benefit verification, and more. Get started with the [Avality Essentials Portal](#) today!

Get critical updates

Receive news and updates about Molina services and plan requirements delivered straight to your inbox! [Click here](#) to receive updates curated for Molina's Illinois providers.

Note: Molina's website and documents are best viewed in Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge.