



L.A. Care
HEALTH PLAN

For All of L.A.

February 13, 2024

RE: Annual Acknowledgement and Adherence to L.A. Care Blood Lead Screening Guidelines

Dear Contracted Provider,

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) released All Plan Letter (APL) 20-016 titled, “Blood Lead Screening of Young Children,” requiring blood lead screening tests for all children under the age of six (6) by all Medi-Cal Managed Care Health Plans (MCPs). As part of this APL, L.A. Care Health Plan (L.A. Care) must identify children without a record of the required blood lead screening test quarterly and share this data with network providers. Medi-Cal children should receive a lead screening at 12 and 24 months, and children up to 72 months without documented screening should be tested.

In 2021, L.A. Care fulfilled APL 20-016 by providing a monthly lead screening report on the Provider Portal.

Effective immediately, L.A. Care requires five actions from Direct Network:

- 1) Download the lead screening report quarterly.
- 2) Share the lead screening reports quarterly with your contracted providers and clinics.
- 3) Ensure providers document anticipatory guidance (oral or written) and lead test refusals in the member’s medical record.
- 4) Take appropriate action for abnormal blood lead values: Follow up with members and local health authorities when required.
- 5) Upon request, provide a detailed response to actions 1-4.

In some cases, we have noticed that testing is being performed late. Early detection is crucial, and we strongly encourage timely lead screenings to ensure the health and well-being of our young members.

We have attached resources to assist you with your lead screening practices, including a sample refusal form and an educational flyer, which provide valuable information and guidelines.

Please complete the attached attestation (**Acknowledgement of Distribution and Use of L.A. Care Blood Lead Screening Report**), affirming your participation in these lead screening actions. Return the completed attestation to EPOCommunications@lacare.org by February 23, 2024, and yearly thereafter.

For questions about accessing and using the Lead Screening Report on the Provider Portal, please contact Provider Relations at ProviderRelations@lacare.org.

Sincerely,

Felix Aguilar, MD, MPH, FAAFP
Medical Director, Quality Health Service

Enclosure (1 – Attestation)



RE: Acknowledgement of Distribution and Use of L.A. Care Blood Lead Screening Report

_____ attests that we are reviewing and downloading the blood lead screening report placed on the L.A. Care Provider Portal. We will download the report quarterly and distribute the data from the blood lead screening reports to our contracted providers and clinics. We will ensure that our contracted providers and clinics document anticipatory guidance in the member's medical records and that they take appropriate action with abnormal blood lead levels. We acknowledge that L.A. Care may request at unspecified dates and times details about the blood lead screening report distribution to the providers and clinics.

Delegate Representative Signature

Date

Please return attestation form to EPCommunications@lacare.org by February 23, 2024.



L.A. Care
HEALTH PLAN

For All of L.A.

REFUSAL OF LEAD TESTING

My child's primary care provider has fully explained:

- The purpose and benefits of lead testing my child.
- The risks and consequences of my child not taking a lead test.

I understand that the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) states:

- The only way to know if your child had lead poisoning is through a blood test.
- Most children get tested at one (1) and two (2) years old. Some children over two (2) years also need to get tested. Children can be screened up to six (6) years of age if they have not been screened.
- Lead can harm a child's brain. Most children who have lead poisoning do not look or act sick.

I still choose not to consent to lead testing for my child.

Reason(s) for refusal:

Patient/Child Name: _____ Patient Date of Birth: _____

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Clinic Use Only

Reasons why parent / guardian is not able to sign Refusal of Lead Testing Form:

Provider / clinic signature / stamp: _____ Date: _____

Please keep this form and include it in the patient's medical record.

MRN#: _____

PL1682.0923a



What is Lead Poisoning?

A sickness caused by swallowing lead or breathing lead dust. Lead is a metal that can harm your child's health when it gets into his/her body.

Did you know lead poisoning can:

- ❖ Damage the brain and nervous system
- ❖ Make it hard for your child to learn, pay attention and behave.
- ❖ Slow down growth and development
- ❖ Cause speech and learning problems



Children can be exposed to lead through:

- ❖ **Paint peels and paint dust.** Homes built before 1978 most likely contain lead based paint.
- ❖ **Toys.** Toys can collect lead dust at home. Also, remove recalled or antique toys and toy jewelry that may contain lead.
- ❖ **Candy.** Some imported candies may contain lead. The ink of the plastic or paper wrappers may contain lead and leach into the candy.
- ❖ **Pottery.** Use and buy containers that are lead free.
- ❖ **Home remedies.** Avoid using remedies that may contain lead.

¿Qué es el envenenamiento por plomo?

Es una enfermedad causada por ingerir plomo o inhalar polvo de plomo. El plomo es un metal que al ingresar al cuerpo de su hijo puede ocasionar daños.

Sabía que el envenenamiento por plomo puede:

- ❖ dañar el cerebro y el sistema nervioso
- ❖ retrasar el crecimiento y el desarrollo
- ❖ ocasionar problemas del habla y de aprendizaje
- ❖ ocasionar problemas de atención y comportamiento en su hijo

Su hijo puede estar en contacto con plomo a través de lo siguiente:

- ❖ **Pedazos y polvo de pintura.** Es muy probable que las casas construidas antes de 1978 contengan pintura a base de plomo.
- ❖ **Juguetes.** Los juguetes pueden acumular polvo de plomo en el hogar. Retire los juguetes viejos o antiguos y la bisutería, ya que podrían contener plomo.
- ❖ **Dulces.** Es posible que algunos dulces importados contengan plomo. Es posible que la tinta de los envoltorios de plástico o de papel contenga plomo que puede filtrarse en los dulces.
- ❖ **Cerámica.** Utilice y compre recipientes libres de plomo.
- ❖ **Remedios caseros.** Evite consumir remedios que puedan contener plomo.

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Health and wellness or prevention information
Información sobre la salud y el bienestar o la prevención



Quality Improvement
1055 West 7th Street, 10th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
lacare.org

LA186 3/31/20



Lead Screening in Children: Important facts you need to know

Prueba de detección de plomo para niños:

Información importante que debe conocer



Tips to protect your children from lead

- ❖ Make sure your child does not have access to peeling paint.
- ❖ Children and pregnant women should not stay in homes built before 1978 during renovations.
- ❖ Clean floors with a wet mop and window sills with a wet cloth to prevent paint dust from going into the air.
- ❖ Regularly wash your child's hands and toys.
- ❖ Take off shoes when entering the house to prevent bringing lead contaminated soil from outside.
- ❖ Prevent your child from playing in soil.

Lead Poisoning can be prevented

The key is to keep your child from coming in contact with lead. Know how your child can be exposed to lead. Learn how to protect your child from lead. Check for lead poisoning with a simple blood lead test. This is essential to protect your child's health.



Most children who have lead poisoning do not look or act sick.

Check for lead poisoning with a simple blood lead test

- ❖ A blood lead test is the only way to know if your child had lead poisoning.
- ❖ A small amount of blood is taken from the finger or arm to test for lead.
- ❖ The test finds out how much lead is in the body.
- ❖ If you think your child was exposed to lead, contact your child's doctor.



You may also contact the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Childhood Lead Poisoning Program hotline at **(800) LA-4-LEAD**.

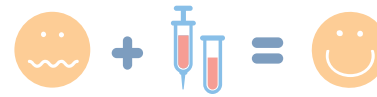


Consejos para proteger a su hijo de la exposición al plomo

- ❖ Asegúrese de que su hijo no tenga acceso a pintura descascarada.
- ❖ Los niños y las mujeres embarazadas no deben permanecer en casas construidas antes de 1978 mientras se las restaura.
- ❖ Limpie los pisos con un trapeador húmedo y los marcos de las ventanas con un trapo húmedo para evitar que el polvo de la pintura quede en el aire.
- ❖ Lave las manos de su hijo y los juguetes de manera regular.
- ❖ Quítese los zapatos cuando entre a la casa para evitar ingresar tierra contaminada con plomo del exterior.
- ❖ Evite que su hijo juegue en la tierra.

El envenenamiento por plomo se puede prevenir

La clave es evitar que su hijo entre en contacto con el plomo. Infórmese sobre cómo su hijo puede estar expuesto al plomo. Investigue cómo proteger a su hijo de la exposición al plomo. Verifique si tiene envenenamiento por plomo con una sencilla prueba para detectar plomo en la sangre. Esta prueba es fundamental para proteger la salud de su hijo.



La mayoría de los niños que sufren envenenamiento por plomo no parecen ni se comportan como si estuvieran enfermos.

Verifique si tiene envenenamiento por plomo con una sencilla prueba para detectar plomo en la sangre

- ❖ La prueba para detectar plomo en la sangre es la única forma de saber si su hijo sufre envenenamiento por plomo.
- ❖ Se extrae una pequeña cantidad de sangre del dedo o del brazo para detectar la presencia de plomo.
- ❖ El análisis indica qué cantidad de plomo hay en el cuerpo.
- ❖ Si considera que su hijo estuvo expuesto al plomo, hable con el médico de su hijo.



También puede llamar a la línea directa del Programa de Prevención del Envenenamiento Infantil por Plomo del Departamento de Salud Pública (*Department of Public Health*) del condado de Los Ángeles al **(800) LA-4-LEAD**.



LEAD POISONING

ENVENENAMIENTO POR PLOMO



Most children who have lead poisoning do not look or act sick.

La mayoría de los niños que sufren envenenamiento por plomo no parecen ni se comportan como si estuvieran enfermos.

LEAD : A HIDDEN DANGER

Swallowing or breathing lead can cause **lead poisoning**. Children under 2 years of age are at the highest risk. Lead can be found in paint, toys, and candy, pottery and some home remedies. Symptoms of lead poisoning may include:

- ⌘ Headaches/nausea
- ⌘ Weakness
- ⌘ Trouble eating, sleeping, or paying attention

Talk to your child's doctor if you think your child has been exposed to lead.

- ⌘ A simple blood test will let you know for sure.
- ⌘ Work with your child's doctor to find ways to lower lead exposure.
- ⌘ Getting your home tested for lead is a good place to start.



To learn more, contact the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Childhood Lead Poisoning Program hotline at **(800) LA-4-LEAD**.

LA1673 06/20

Prevent Lead Poisoning:

Evite el envenenamiento por plomo:

Get the Facts.
Infórmese.



Talk with Your Doctor.
Hable con su médico.



Get Your Child Tested.

Hágale pruebas a su hijo.



Get Your Home Tested.

Hágale pruebas a su casa.



For more information, contact the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Childhood Lead Poisoning Program (CLPP) hotline at (800) LA-4-LEAD.

Para obtener más información, llame a la línea directa del Programa de Prevención del Envenenamiento Infantil por Plomo (Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, CLPPP) del Departamento de Salud Pública (Department of Public Health) del condado de Los Ángeles al (800) LA-4-LEAD.

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