



May 24, 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 (5) 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, affirming your participation in these lead screening actions. Return the completed attestation to Initiatives@lacare.org **June 7, 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

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 to Initiatives@lacare.org by **June 7, 2024**.