

**To: AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Providers**

**Date: September 27, 2021**

**Subject: Informational Bulletin 21-20: EPSDT Policy**

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**Informational Bulletins that summarize policies and/or procedures are intended for quick reference and are accurate on the date they are issued.**

**EPSDT Medical Screenings must include the following:**

- A comprehensive health and developmental history, including both physical and mental health development;
- A comprehensive unclothed exam;
- Appropriate immunizations according to age and health history (unless medically contraindicated or parents/guardians refuse at the time);
- Laboratory tests\* (including age-appropriate screenings for newborns, iron deficiency anemia, blood lead levels, dyslipidemia, and sexually transmitted infections); and
- Health education including anticipatory guidance

\*The blood lead levels and iron deficiency anemia components of the preventive medical screening must be provided on-site on the same date of service as the screening visit.

**Objective Vision Screening**

Vision screening services are to be provided according to the AAP/Bright Futures recommendations.

**Objective Hearing Screening**

Hearing screening services are to be provided according to the AAP/Bright Futures recommendations.

**EPSDT-Lab**

Iron deficiency anemia screening and blood lead testing when required are included in the medical screening fee and must not be billed separately.

## **EPSDT-Blood Lead Screening**

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana shall ensure children ages six months to 72 months are screened in compliance with Louisiana Medicaid EPSDT requirements and in accordance with practices consistent with current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, which include the following specifications:

- Administer a risk assessment at every well child visit;
- Use a blood test to screen all children at ages 12 months and 24 months or at any age older than 24 months and up to 72 months, if they have not been previously screened; and
- Use a venous blood sample to confirm results when finger stick samples indicate blood lead levels  $\geq 5$  ug/dl.

Medical providers must report a lead case to the Office of Public Health's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program **within 24 working hours**. A lead case is indicated by a blood lead test result of  $>5$  ug/dl (micrograms per deciliter). The original lead case reporting form shall be mailed within five business days.

All results of blood lead testing of children less than 72 months of age, regardless of the blood lead level, must be reported to the Louisiana Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program by electronic transmission.

If an abnormality or problem is encountered and treatment is significant enough to require an additional evaluation and management (E&M) service on the same date, by the same provider, no additional E&M of a level higher than CPT code 99212 is reimbursable.

The physician, advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), or physician assistant (PA) listed as the rendering provider must be present and involved during a preventive visit. Any care provided by a registered nurse or other ancillary staff in a provider's office is subject to "Incident to" Services policy and must only be providing services within the scope of the license or certification.

Please review [IB 21-20](#) for full details.

This information will be updated in the [AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Provider Handbook](#) after **October 15, 2021**.

Questions regarding this message should be directed to AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Provider Services at 1-888-922-0007. The Provider Services Department can be reached between 7:00 am – 7:00 pm daily.

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