



IMPROVING HEALTH CARE QUALITY

Lead Screening in Children

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) collects quality data from our providers to measure and improve the quality of care our members receive. Lead Screening in Children (LSC) is just one aspect of care we measure in our quality programs. Quality measures evaluate a prior calendar year performance.

What We Measure

We capture the percentage of children 2 years of age who had one or more capillary or venous lead blood tests for lead poisoning by their second birthday.

A higher rate represents more appropriate testing, which indicates better performance.

LSC is a Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) measure. See the [National Committee for Quality Assurance \(NCQA\) website](#) for more details.



Why It Matters

Children absorb lead more quickly and efficiently than adults. Lead exposure and accumulation in the body can cause damage to the brain and other vital organs if not treated early. Since children with lead poisoning often do not look or act sick, a lead screening is the only way to know how much exposure there has been.

Eligible Population

Children who turn 2 during the measurement year are included in this measure.

Exclusions: Members in hospice

Tips to Consider

- Educate caregivers about lead sources and preventing exposure.
- Identify children with the greatest risk and test them regularly.
- Limit the number of tests for children with lower risk.

How to Document

Quality data is collected from claims information and chart review.

For more information, see [NCQA's HEDIS Measures and Technical Resources](#).



Questions?

Contact your BCBSIL Network Representative.



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