

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week – You Can Help!

Neighborhood News – October 2023

For the eleventh consecutive year, the World Health Organization is initiating Lead Poisoning Prevention Week from October 22-28. This campaign is dedicated to raising awareness about the health effects of lead exposure, promoting prevention strategies, and pressing for further measures to eradicate lead paint through regulation. Despite the widespread acknowledgment of lead's adverse effects, exposure remains a significant concern for healthcare providers and public health officials globally.

Lead screening among children is a Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) measure. It's defined as, "the percentage of children two years of age who had at least one capillary or venous blood test for lead poisoning on or before their second birthday." *

Notably, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's (Neighborhood) HEDIS lead screening rate showed improvement rising from 75.80% in 2021 to 78.06% in 2022.

How Can You Help?

- **Educate:** Inform your patients on the importance of lead screening.
- **Utilize reports:** Employ the Gap in Care Reports provided by Neighborhood to pinpoint children missing a blood test for lead poisoning. Send them reminders.
- **Test:** Conduct in-office capillary or venous testing by the patient's second birthday.
- **Re-screen:** If patients have blood lead levels of 3.5 mcg/dL or higher, retest within 90 days of an elevated blood lead level result.
- **Promote Rewards:** Let members know about Neighborhood's Member Rewards. For instance, a \$25 gift card for completing lead screening by their second birthday. Additional rewards are also available for well visits and immunizations. More details and the Member Rewards Form are available [here](#).
- **Code Accurately:** When submitting claims, use one of the following:
 - CPT Code: 83655
 - SNOMED: 8655006, 35833009
 - LOINC: 10368-9, 10912-4, 14807-2, 17052-2, 25459-9, 27129-6, 32325-3, 5671-3, 5674-7, 77307-7

*It's vital to note that the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) enforces stricter lead screening guidelines by law. If a child meets RIDOH screening guidelines, they will also satisfy the HEDIS measure. For comprehensive information on lead screening mandates, please [visit RIDOH's website](#).

HEDIS® is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance.