

Medical Coverage Policy



**Blue Cross
Blue Shield**
of Rhode Island

Venipuncture for State Mandated Lead Screening

☐ Device/Equipment ☐ Drug ☐ Medical ☐ Surgery ☐ Test ☒ Other

Effective Date:	9/1/2003	Policy Last Updated:	6/18/2013
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☐ **Prospective review is recommended/required. Please check the member agreement for preauthorization guidelines.**

☒ **Prospective review is not required.**

Description:

This is an administrative policy to document the following Rhode Island General Laws (RIGL) pertaining to screening for lead poisoning coverage: RIGL 23-24.6-9.

§ 23-24.6-9 Reimbursement by third party payers. – Screening for lead poisoning and lead screening related services for children under six (6) years of age as required by department regulations and diagnostic evaluations for lead poisoning for children under six (6) years of age, including but not limited to confirmatory blood lead testing, shall be a covered health benefit and be reimbursable under any general or blanket policy of accident or health insurance offered by an insurer except for supplemental policies which only provide coverage for specific diseases, hospital indemnity medicare supplements, or other supplemental policies. The department of human services shall pay for the lead screening and lead screening related and diagnostic evaluation services where the patient is eligible for medical assistance under the provisions of chapter 8 of title 40. The department of health shall pay for the lead screening and lead screening related and diagnostic evaluation services where the patient is not covered by any health insurance. All companies which are self insured for health care services will be encouraged by the department to participate as other insurers.

Medical Criteria:

None

Policy:

Commercial Products:

Lead testing is covered:

- as a preventative health service for children under the age of six; **or**
- as authorized for groups determined to be at high-risk by the Department of Health; **or**
- for those who exhibit signs and symptoms of lead poisoning.

Blood may be drawn by any Rhode Island licensed physician or healthcare provider but **must** be submitted to a state-approved laboratory.

BC for Medicare

Rhode Island mandated benefits generally do not apply to BlueCHiP for Medicare members. This mandate is for children under age 6 which are not eligible for Medicare.

Coverage:

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate evidence of coverage or subscriber agreement for applicable physician services/lab coverage/benefits.

Coding:

The following codes are covered:

36415-32, 36416-32

Also known as:

None

Related Topics:

Preventive Services for Commercial Members

Published:

Provider Update, September 2013

Provider Update, Jul 2012

Provider Update, Mar 2011

Provider Update, Apr 2010

Provider Update, Dec 2009

Provider Update, Nov 2008

Policy Update, May 2007

Policy Update, May 2006

Professionals' Bulletin, April 1992 (Lead Poisoning Prevention Act)

References:

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE23/23-24.6/23-24.6-9.HTM>

History:

Annual Review - May 2013

This medical policy is made available to you for informational purposes only. It is not a guarantee of payment or a substitute for your medical judgment in the treatment of your patients. Benefits and eligibility are determined by the member's subscriber agreement or member certificate and/or the employer agreement, and those documents will supersede the provisions of this medical policy. For information on member-specific benefits, call the provider call center. If you provide services to a member which are determined to not be medically necessary (or in some cases medically necessary services which are non-covered benefits), you may not charge the member for the services unless you have informed the member and they have agreed in writing in advance to continue with the treatment at their own expense. Please refer to your participation agreement(s) for the applicable provisions. This policy is current at the time of publication; however, medical practices, technology, and knowledge are constantly changing. BCBSRI reserves the right to review and revise this policy for any reason and at any time, with or without notice.