

## National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week – You Can Help!

### Neighborhood News – October 2024

For the 11th consecutive year, the World Health Organization (WHO) is initiating Lead Poisoning Prevention Week from October 20-26. This global campaign raises awareness about the dangers of lead exposure, promotes prevention, and advocates for policies to eliminate lead paint. Despite widespread acknowledgment of its harmful effects, lead exposure remains a pressing public health issue.

Lead screening is a critical Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) measure for children, requiring that “children two years of age have at least one capillary or venous blood test for lead poisoning by their second birthday.” \*

Our lead screening rate has improved, rising from 78.06% in 2022 to 80.65% in 2023.

### How You Can Help

**Educate:** Raise patient awareness about the importance of lead screening.

**Utilize reports:** Use Neighborhood’s Gap in Care Reports to identify children who have not had a blood test for lead poisoning and send reminders.

**Test:** Ensure in-office capillary or venous testing is done by the patient’s second birthday.

**Re-screen:** For patients with blood lead levels of 5 mcg/dL or higher, retest within 90 days.

**Promote Rewards:** Inform members about Neighborhood’s [Member Rewards](#), such as a \$25 gift card for completing lead screening by their second birthday. Additional rewards are also available for well visits and immunizations.

**Code Accurately:** Use the correct billing codes:

- 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

\*The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) mandates more stringent lead screening guidelines, which also comply with HEDIS measures. For detailed guidelines, please [visit the RIDOH website](#).

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