

SECTION 13 ENVIRONMENTAL LEAD ASSESSMENT

The purpose of the environmental lead assessment is to determine the source(s) of hazardous lead exposure in the residential environment of children with elevated blood lead levels.

In accordance with Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services guidelines, MO HealthNet will reimburse for an initial environmental lead assessment of the individual's primary place of residence if the following applies:

- Blood lead level of 15 ug/dL which remains elevated for two consecutive tests which are performed three-four months apart;
- Participant blood level test of 20 ug/dL or greater; and,
- Emergency priority – child hospitalized due to lead poisoning.

If more than one child in the home meets this criteria, services may be billed for only one of the children.

MO HealthNet reimbursement is limited to services provided in the individual's *primary residence only*. Although it may be necessary to assess additional sites and residences, federal Medicaid regulations prohibit MO HealthNet reimbursement for these additional sites.

BILLING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LEAD ASSESSMENTS

For all environmental assessments performed, the following must be submitted:

- Copy of the home lead investigation;
- Date the assessment was performed;
- Type of hazard found, if any (e.g., lead-based paint, hobby);
- Lead paint XRF highest reading;
- Highest levels of lead found in paint chip, soil, water;
- Notation of actions to be taken (i.e., abatement or remediation) and due date; and,
- Date the actions were completed (on reassessments).

This information must be submitted within two weeks of the assessment to:

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
P.O. Box 570,
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 526-4911

Only one Initial Assessment (procedure code (T1029UATG) is permitted per year/per provider/per primary residence.

Environmental lead assessment services may only be billed if the service is provided on site at the primary residence. When several children in the same household have blood lead levels that qualify for an environmental lead assessment, only one environmental assessment may be billed to MO HealthNet.

INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL LEAD ASSESSMENT

<u>Procedure Code</u>	<u>Description</u>
T1029UATG	Initial Environmental Lead Assessment

The following activities are included in the reimbursement for the initial environmental lead assessment.

- Upon receipt of referral for an individual with lead levels of 15 ug/dL or greater, evaluate proper level of response required, contact the individual or parent/guardian/building owner to obtain approval for inspection and make arrangements to actuate an investigation.
- Obtain information from child’s care giver.
- Visually inspect for lead hazards, heavily used areas, and levels of sanitation. Delineate sampling locations and collect samples.
- Report results and negotiate compliance time frame. Set day and time for re-inspection. Counsel residents on interim exposure reduction methods.
- Refer individual to an enrolled case management agency of choice if not already receiving case management services.

First Reassessment

<u>Procedure Code</u>	<u>Description</u>
T1029UA	First Environmental Lead Reassessment

The following activities are included in the first environmental lead reassessment:

- Visit participant’s primary residence to visually observe abatement procedures that have been completed, and collect any samples necessary to indicate the areas were contained properly and cleaned up adequately (i.e. soil or dust samples).
- If abatement procedures are complete and an adequate cleanup has taken place, verbal and written acknowledgment should be given to parent/guardian and building owner along with appropriate maintenance recommendations.
- If abatement procedures are *not* complete, another conference must take place to determine when the work is to be completed. If there appears to be a reluctance to comply, follow the instructions in the Department of Health and Senior Services Lead Manual. A date and time should be set for a second reassessment.

Second Reassessment

<u>Procedure Code</u>	<u>Description</u>
T1029UATF	Second Environmental Lead Reassessment

Follow the same procedure as the first reassessment. If compliance has not been completed, follow the instructions in the Department of Health and Senior Services Lead Manual.

Subsequent Reassessment

<u>Procedure Code</u>	<u>Description</u>
T1029UATS	Subsequent Environmental Lead Reassessment

Follow the same procedure as the first reassessment. Attach a *Certificate of Medical Necessity* form to claim to explain why the additional assessment is necessary.

Environmental Lead Assessment-Subsequent Reassessment requires that a *Certificate of Medical Necessity* is attached to the claim to explain why the additional assessment is necessary. If the documentation is not attached to the CMS-1500 claim form, the claim will be denied. The participant cannot be billed for services that are not considered medically necessary.

MO HEALTHNET MANAGED HEALTH CARE PLANS

The MO HealthNet managed health care plan is responsible for coverage of the lead screens and blood lead level determinations as well as the lead case management services for those children who are enrolled in the MO HealthNet managed health care plan program.

The MO HealthNet Division provides reimbursement for environmental lead assessments as a supplemental benefit to the MO HealthNet managed health care plan program when furnished by an enrolled Medicaid lead assessment provider. Lead assessment services should be coordinated with the managed health care plan when the blood lead level is elevated.