

# IHCP *bulletin*

INDIANA HEALTH COVERAGE PROGRAMS    BT202302    JANUARY 12, 2023

## IHCP updates blood lead testing policy

**Screening for blood lead toxicity for all children enrolled in Medicaid is a federal requirement.** In alignment with new Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) standards, the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) has updated the blood lead testing policy.

Effective Jan. 1, 2023, the FSSA requires the following steps for all children enrolled under Medicaid:

1. Children should receive a blood lead test between the ages of 9 months and 15 months, or as close as reasonably possible to the patient's appointment.
2. Children should have another blood lead test between the ages of 21 months and 27 months, or as close as reasonably possible to the patient's appointment.
3. Any child between 28 months and 72 months that does not have a record of any prior blood lead test must have a blood lead test performed as soon as possible.



If a provider can verify, via the Children's Health and Immunization Registry Program (CHIRP), or the records from another provider, that blood lead testing has occurred at the required intervals, they are not obligated to repeat the procedure.

The IDOH, through the Indiana Lead and Healthy Homes Program (ILHHP), monitors lead poisoning in Indiana children. Both providers and laboratories are required to report *all* results received or analyzed to the IDOH no later than one week after completing the examination. Information on interpreting blood lead testing results and required follow up activities is available in the [Childhood Blood Lead Medical Management Guidelines for Providers in Indiana](https://www.in.gov/health/childhood-blood-lead-medical-management-guidelines-for-providers-in-indiana) at [in.gov/health](https://www.in.gov/health). The ILHHP provides medical and environmental case management follow-up for children who are identified with elevated levels of lead in their blood.

If a parent or guardian refuses to allow their child to be tested, providers are encouraged to document the refusal in writing and have the parent or guardian sign an attestation of refusal. A [sample refusal attestation](#) accompanies this guidance on the [IDOH Lead and Healthy Homes Division website](https://www.in.gov/health/lead-and-healthy-homes-division). Providers are expected to keep a copy of the refusal, either digital or hard copy, with the patient record until the child reaches age 7 years. Providers are only required to keep a single refusal on file if a parent or guardian indicates they will not allow initial or follow-up testing.

Additional provider resources are available at the IDOH Lead and Healthy Homes Division website on the [Lead Information for Health Care Providers](#) page at [in.gov/health](https://www.in.gov/health).

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