

**Affected Programs:** BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid  
**To:** HealthCheck Providers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

## **New Coverage Policy Regarding Environmental Lead Investigations**

### **Overview of New Coverage Policy**

Effective for dates of service (DOS) on and after September 23, 2017, children ages 0–20 enrolled in full-benefit BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid are eligible for environmental lead investigation (ELI) services if they are shown to have lead poisoning or lead exposure equal to or greater than 5 mcg/dL, as defined in Wis. Stat. § 254.11(9). This change was authorized by the state legislature in the 2017–2019 biennial budget, 2017 Wisconsin Act 59, and aligns the definition of lead poisoning and lead exposure with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In addition, prior authorization (PA) is no longer required for ELI services.

### **Member Eligibility**

Effective for DOS on and after September 23, 2017 (the effective date of the 2017–2019 biennial budget), children ages 0–20 enrolled in full-benefit BadgerCare Plus and Wisconsin Medicaid are eligible for ELI services if they are shown to have lead poisoning or lead exposure equal to or greater than 5 mcg/dL, as defined in Wis. Stat. § 254.11(9). The previous definition of lead poisoning or lead exposure was equal to or greater than 10 mcg/dL. This change was authorized by the state legislature in the 2017–2019 biennial budget, 2017 Wisconsin Act 59, and aligns the definition of lead poisoning and lead exposure with that of the state statutes and the CDC.

### **PA No Longer Required for ELI Services**

Effective for DOS on and after March 1, 2018, ForwardHealth will no longer require PA for ELI services. Previously approved PA requests for DOS on and after March 1, 2018, will not require any action by providers. Providers are required to follow billing requirements that are applicable for the DOS. Claims submitted for services with DOS prior to March 1, 2018, must have an approved PA on file with ForwardHealth.

ForwardHealth will also update the ForwardHealth Online Handbook to align ELI terminology with Wis. Stat. § 254.11(8s). The Online Handbook previously used the terms “investigation” and “inspection” interchangeably when discussing ELI services provided through local public health departments. ForwardHealth will now only use the term “investigation” to align with state statutes. ForwardHealth will make other minor updates to the lead topics in the Online Handbook to align with the public health expectations related to ELI and lead testing; refer to the Online Handbook for all updated language.

### **Covered Services**

ForwardHealth covers ELI services provided by local health departments enrolled as HealthCheck screening providers. ELI services include all of the following:

- An initial comprehensive environmental lead investigation, billed under procedure code T1029

(Comprehensive environmental lead investigation, not including laboratory analysis, per dwelling)

- Follow-up lead clearance investigations, billed under procedure code T1029 with modifier TS (Follow-up service)
- Nursing education visits related to lead poisoning, billed under procedure code T1002 (RN services, up to 15 minutes)

ELI services may be Medicaid-reimbursable if the following criteria are met:

- The child is shown to have lead poisoning or lead exposure as defined in Wis. Stat. § 254.11(9).
- The ELI services are provided in the child's home.
- The person doing the investigation is Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS)-certified as a lead hazard investigator (or risk assessor).
- The person doing the lead poisoning education is a registered nurse (RN).

### *Additional Coverage Criteria*

In addition to those mentioned above, the following requirements also apply to the coverage of ELI services:

- If more than one child in the home has lead poisoning, all ELI services must be billed under one child's Medicaid ID only.
- An initial comprehensive environmental lead investigation, T1029 (Comprehensive environmental lead investigation, not including laboratory analysis, per dwelling), is limited to one per rolling year, per provider, per residence.
- Nurse education visits are limited to 4 units (i.e., one hour) per date of service, per provider, per member.

*Note:* If a child is diagnosed with lead exposure or lead poisoning, a nurse education visit for lead poisoning is covered regardless of whether an environmental lead investigation will be conducted.

### **Claim Submission**

Local health departments that are enrolled as HealthCheck providers may submit claims for ELI services even if a

comprehensive HealthCheck screen has not been done previously.

The following applies to claims submitted for ELI services:

- Place of service (POS) must be in a home (POS 12).
- Member must have a diagnosis of lead poisoning or lead exposure.
- For procedure code T1002 (RN services, up to 15 minutes), the claim must include diagnosis code Z77.011 (Contact with and [suspected] exposure to lead).
- The service must have the HealthCheck service modifier EP submitted in the primary modifier position.
- If code T1029 is billed and the service represents a follow-up lead clearance investigation, modifier TS must also be submitted in the second modifier position.

If a member is enrolled in a managed care program, providers are required to submit claims to Wisconsin Medicaid fee-for-service for ELI services. Providers should not submit claims to the member's managed care organization (MCO) because ELI services are covered on a fee-for-service basis for all members and, thus, will not be reimbursed by the member's MCO.

Refer to the Online Handbook for additional claim submission requirements.

### **Components of a Comprehensive Lead Investigation**

Environmental lead investigation of the child's home involves not only the identification of potential sources of high-dose exposure to lead, but also advising parents or guardians about identified and potential sources of lead and ways to reduce exposure. Once home owners or rental property owners are notified of the problem and have an opportunity to remedy the situation, a follow-up lead clearance investigation should be conducted to assure that the problem is resolved. Additional information about aspects of the environmental assessment can be obtained from the Lead-Safe Wisconsin program website at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lead/index.htm>.

Technical aspects of a comprehensive lead investigation must include all of the following:

- Interview with parents or guardians and property owner to determine physical characteristics and usage of dwelling
- A complete lead risk assessment of the property, including:
  - ✓ A visual assessment of the dwelling and property to determine the locations of deteriorated paint and lead paint hazards
  - ✓ Collection of samples and/or use of an X-ray fluorescence analyzer to measure lead in the environment (dust, paint, soil, or water)
  - ✓ Identification and evaluation of any non-paint lead hazards
  - ✓ Provision of a complete lead paint risk assessment report to the property owner and parents or guardians, including findings and any work orders or recommendations for lead hazard reduction

Technical aspects of a follow-up lead clearance investigation must include the following:

- A visual assessment to determine that all identified lead hazards have been remediated, no visible dust or debris remains, and non-paint hazards have been removed
- For interior lead paint hazards, a collection of clearance dust-wipe samples to verify safe completion and clean-up of the work
- Provision of a written clearance report to the contractor, property owner, and parents or guardians

### *Education Home Visits by an RN*

An education home visit involves advising parents or guardians of the child's blood lead level and what it means, the impact of lead poisoning on children, risk factors and possible sources of lead exposure, steps parents or guardians can take to decrease their child's lead exposure, the importance of a well-balanced diet, and follow-up blood lead testing recommendations. Additional information about lead poisoning prevention education can be obtained from the Lead-Safe Wisconsin website.

Refer to the Environmental Lead Investigations topic (topic #2398) of the Covered Services and Requirements chapter of the Covered and Noncovered Services section of the HealthCheck (EPSDT) service area of the Online Handbook for more information on comprehensive lead investigation and nurse education visits.

The *ForwardHealth Update* is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers.

Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, SeniorCare, and Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program are administered by the Division of Medicaid Services, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). The Wisconsin AIDS Drug Assistance Program and the Wisconsin Well Woman Program are administered by the Division of Public Health, DHS.

For questions, call Provider Services at 800-947-9627 or visit our website at [www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/](http://www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/).

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