

# Environmental Lead Investigation (ELI)



In accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a medical provider should manage the condition of a child who has an elevated blood lead level (EBLL) greater than or equal to 3.5 µg/dL. Management should include follow-up blood tests and consideration of possible sources of contamination including housing, food, and toys. Locating the source of lead contamination is an integral part of managing and treating lead toxicity. Once a medical provider has confirmed the diagnosis of an EBLL of at least 3.5 µg/dL via a venous blood sample from a Medical Assistance (MA) beneficiary under age 21, the provider should submit a referral to an enrolled ELI provider. For a child with a BLL less than 3.5 µg/dL, the provider should perform follow-up blood lead monitoring.

Under federal law, a risk assessment (or an ELI as it is known in the MA program) is an onsite investigation used to determine and report the existence, nature, severity, and location of lead-based paint hazards in residential dwellings. It includes information gathering, visual assessment, environmental sampling, and reporting that includes the findings from the risk assessment and recommendations to the owner (15 USC § 2681; 40 CFR § 745.63).

## Requirements for ELI referrals

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) requires a referral by an MA-enrolled provider that includes:

- A primary diagnosis code of abnormal lead level or toxic effect of lead and its compounds
- The blood lead level of the child
- The date of the venous lead test confirming that level
- The child's primary residence. In circumstances such as shared custody, up to two locations may be allowed as the child's primary residence, and an ELI may be performed at each location.

The ELI provider must provide a copy of the ELI report to the referring medical provider to ensure appropriate management of the child's health condition. The ELI provider should maintain a copy of the medical provider's ELI referral for a period of at least four years to allow verification of the information furnished as a basis for payment under the MA program.

## Procedures for submitting claims for ELIs

Enrolled ELI providers may submit claims for ELIs using procedure code T1029 (Comprehensive environmental lead investigation). A primary diagnosis code of toxic effect of lead must be on the claim submission.

Payment limitations include but are not limited to:

- Payment is limited to one ELI per residence for all children living in the residence.
- MA payment is not available for removal or abatement of lead sources or for providing alternate housing for the child during abatement.

## ELI enrollment

ELI providers must be enrolled in the MA program in order to be paid for an ELI. ELI providers may enroll in the MA program as provider type 55 (Vendor), specialty 225 (Environmental Investigation). To qualify, the ELI provider must employ or contract with at least one health professional that is either a nurse or sanitarian who possesses a current certification from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry as a lead risk assessor.

Information on how to complete and submit an enrollment application is available on the DHS website at [www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/promise/enrollmentinformation/S\\_001994](http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/promise/enrollmentinformation/S_001994).

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### How to provide ELI services for AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania members

The Plan has contracted with Accredited Environmental Technologies (AET) and UPMC Pinnacle to provide ELI services for our members. A referral for these services can be made for any member with an EBLL of 3.5 µg/dL and above.

To refer a member for an ELI through AET:

1. Complete the AET form found on our website at [www.amerihealthcaritasp.com](http://www.amerihealthcaritasp.com) > **Providers** > **Resources** > **EPSDT** > **EPSDT Forms and Administration** > **Elevated Lead Investigation Referral Form**.
2. Fax the form to AET at **1-610-891-0559**.
3. AET will complete the ELI.

For any questions about the AET form or investigation process, please call AET at **1-800-969-6238**.

To refer a member for an ELI through UPMC Pinnacle (Dauphin and Lancaster counties only):

1. Call **1-717-782-6443** or **1-717-782-4608**.
2. Fax **1-717-782-2709**.
3. Send an email to [lead@pinnaclehealth.org](mailto:lead@pinnaclehealth.org).



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