

Texas Health Steps (THSteps) Environmental Lead Investigations

[Cross Reference Policies](#)

[Policy History](#)

[Medicaid Provider Manual](#)

[Appendices](#)

Texas Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) must provide all medically necessary, Medicaid-covered services to eligible clients. Administrative procedures such as prior authorization, precertification, referrals, and claims/encounter data filing may differ from traditional Medicaid (fee-for-service) and from MCO to MCO. Providers should contact the client's specific MCO for details.

Statement of Benefits

- 1 Environmental lead investigations (ELIs) are a required Texas Health Steps (THSteps) benefit for clients birth through 20 years of age with elevated blood lead levels (EBLL).
- 2 Blood lead screening is a required component of the THSteps Medical Checkup Periodicity Schedule for infants and children from birth through 6 years of age and is conducted at minimum at 12 and 24 months of age. A blood lead screen may be performed when a risk is identified for a child older than 6 years of age. An EBLL may result in a referral for an ELI.
- 3 ELIs are completed in the home or primary residence by a certified lead risk assessor to determine if a lead hazard exists and if the lead source could be the cause of the elevated blood lead level. The Texas Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (TX CLPPP) is administered by the Texas Department of State Health Services (TX DSHS). CLPPP receives requests for ELIs from lead screening providers when the results of a blood lead screen indicate that the child has an elevated blood lead level. If an ELI request meets TX CLPPP criteria, TX CLPPP sends a referral for an ELI to the local health departments for assignment to a certified lead risk assessor.
- 4 An ELI can be performed when the EBLL criteria outlined in this policy are met for one of the following:
 - 4.1 No previous investigation of the current home or primary residence has been performed
 - 4.2 There is a change in client's current home or primary residence
 - 4.3 If a previous investigation of the current home or primary residence has been performed, and there is a change in the child's residential environment, and TX CLPPP determines that criteria are met for an additional ELI.

5 The following procedure code is used for ELI:

Table A: Procedure Codes

Procedure Code	Description
S-T1029	Comprehensive environmental lead investigation, not including laboratory analysis, per dwelling

Medicaid

Texas Health Steps (THSteps) Environmental Lead Investigations

- 6** Elevated blood lead levels indicate that an ELI may be medically necessary. Elevated blood lead levels are defined as a blood lead level of 10 mcg/dL or higher.
- 7** A lead screening provider requests an ELI by submitting a completed Pb-101 Form "Request for Environmental Investigation" to the TX CLPPP.
- 8** The following documentation must be maintained by the lead screening provider in the client's medical record:
 - 8.1** An ELI request made by one of the following types of providers:
 - 8.1.1** Advance practice registered nurse (APRN)
 - 8.1.2** Physician
 - 8.1.3** Physician assistant (PA)
 - 8.2** Documentation of a current blood lead level supporting medical necessity for an ELI obtained within 30 days of the ELI request:
 - 8.2.1** Venous blood lead level result of 10-19 mcg/dL from each of two separate specimens conducted at least 12 weeks apart.
 - 8.2.2** Venous blood lead level result of 20 mcg/dL from one specimen
- 9** The following information must be maintained in the LHD provider's client record:
 - 9.1** The TX CLPPP fax transmittal cover sheet referring the ELI request to the local health department that includes:
 - 9.1.1** The site to be assessed
 - 9.1.2** A statement that the identified site is the client's primary place of residence.
 - 9.2** Completed Pb-101 Request for Environmental Investigation (2 pages) that includes:
 - 9.2.1** The referring lead screening provider
 - 9.2.2** The blood lead level(s)
 - 9.2.3** The diagnosis
 - 9.3** Completed Pb-103 Texas Elevated Blood Lead Level Investigation Questionnaire (all pages) indicating:
 - 9.3.1** The date and location the investigation took place
 - 9.3.2** The child receiving the investigation
 - 9.3.3** The identifying information and signature of the assessor conducting the investigation. The person listed as the assessor must be the same person signing the report.

Provider Type(s)

66 Texas Health Steps- Medical

Place of Service(s)

2 Home

Authorization Requirements

- 10** Authorization is not required for an ELI.

Reimbursement

- 11** The service addressed in this policy is reimbursed at a maximum fee determined by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). The reimbursement rate is established by provider input, reviewing other Medicaid states' reimbursement rates and Medicare's reimbursement rate.

- 12** ELI is diagnosis restricted to the codes in the following table:

Table B: Diagnosis Codes

Diagnosis Code	Description
V1586	Personal history of exposure to lead, presenting hazards to health
984.9	Toxic effect of unspecified lead compound

- 13** The following information must be submitted with the claim to receive reimbursement of an ELI and must be maintained in the ELI provider's client record:

- 13.1** The TX CLPPP fax transmittal cover sheet referring the ELI request to the local health department that includes both:

13.1.1 The site to be assessed

13.1.2 A statement that the identified site is the client's primary place of residence.

- 13.2** Pb-101 Request for Environmental Investigation (2 pages) that includes all of the following:

13.2.1 The referring lead screening provider

13.2.2 The blood lead level(s)

13.2.3 The diagnosis

- 13.3** Pb-103 Texas Elevated Blood Lead Level Investigation Questionnaire first and last pages, indicating the date and location the investigation took place, the child receiving the investigation, and the identifying information and signature of the assessor conducting the investigation. The person listed as the assessor must be the same person signing the report.

NOTE: Both Form Pb-101 and Pb-103 are accessible at the following website <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lead/providers.shtm>.

- 14** Medicaid only reimburses for the certified lead risk assessor's time and activities during an onsite investigation of a child's home or primary residence. Medicaid does not reimburse for laboratory analysis of environmental substances such as water, paint or soil.
- 15** ELIs are subject to retrospective review and may be recouped if the combined documentation maintained by the lead screening provider and the ELI provider does not support medical necessity as outlined in the this policy.

Medicaid

Texas Health Steps (THSteps) Environmental Lead Investigations

Cross Reference Policies

Texas Health Steps (THSteps) Preventive Medical Checkups

Policy History

<i>Effective Date</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Source-Date</i>
2010 xx xx	Kintana #3714507 New policy created for new environmental lead investigation benefit.	2009 09 08 HHSC/TMHP Benefits Management Workgroup meeting

Medicaid Provider Manual

[SECTION 43: Texas Health Steps \(THSteps\)](#)

[Appendix J: Lead Screening](#)