



Alaska Medical Assistance

PO Box 240808
Anchorage, AK 99524-0808
Phone: 907.644.6800
Toll-free: 800.770.5650
<http://medicaidalaska.com>

Remittance Advice (RA) Message

Title: **New Lead Screening Periodicity Requirements**

Issue Date: 01/25/2017

Run Length: 4 weeks

Provider Type(s): All

Message: Even low blood lead levels have been shown to negatively affect children's cognition, resulting in lower IQ levels, decreased ability to pay attention, and decreased academic success. Current Alaska Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) regulations require lead screening for recipients under age 21 when "appropriate for age and risk factors."

In September 2016, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services informed the Department of Health and Social Services that lead screening is now required at age 12 and 24 months. In compliance with the CMS directive, the following efforts are underway by the Department: the State Medicaid Medical Director will issue a notification letter to pediatric providers and physician professional organizations informing them of the new lead screening requirements; a notice of proposed regulations incorporating the new periodicity requirements will, in accordance with AS 44.62, be released for public comment in February; and billing manuals, EPSDT guidance materials, and other documents will be updated to reflect the new periodicity requirements. For more information, visit <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/epsdt/lead-screening/index.html>.