

## Childhood Preventive Care

MVP Health Care, as part of its continuing Quality Improvement Program, adopted the American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP) Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care as MVP's preventive care guideline for children. For childhood immunizations, MVP endorses the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), The American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Practice Physicians' recommendations.

### Key Guideline Messages

- The recommended preventive care visit frequency is shown according to age group at the AAP link below.
- In addition to the physical exam, most preventive care visits should include a thorough history, developmental/ behavioral assessment, measurements (e.g. weight, height, BMI), vision/ hearing screening and anticipatory guidance.
- Additional procedures such as newborn screening for HIV, metabolic and genetic disease, and immunizations and blood testing that vary according to age are outlined in the periodicity schedule.

#### *Lead testing*

- Children between six months of age and six years should be screened for high dose lead exposure using a risk assessment tool based on currently accepted public health guidelines.
- Blood lead testing is indicated for those found to be at risk for high dose lead exposure.
- Screening consists of blood testing and is required by the NYSDOH (Public Health Law) for children by the age of two (i.e. two screening tests by the age of two).
- Follow-up care is to be provided as indicated by test results. Anticipatory guidance on lead poisoning prevention is recommended as a part of routine care.

### Accessing the Recommendations

- The guideline, [AAP Periodicity Schedule](http://www.aap.org), is available by visiting the American Academy of Pediatrics website ([www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)).
- The [Recommended Childhood and Adolescence Immunization Schedule](http://www.cdc.gov) is available through the CDC website ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)).

*This guideline is not intended to replace the role of clinical judgment by the physician in the management of this, or any other disease entity. It is an educational guideline to assist in the delivery of good medical care. **All treatment decisions are ultimately up to the physician.*** Where medication recommendations are made, please refer to each health plan's formulary for coverage considerations.

MVP Health Care updates its clinical guidelines at least every two years. The review process is also initiated when new scientific evidence or national standards are published. Practitioners are alerted via the web site, and by written notices from the plan via fax or newsletter. A hard copy of the clinical guideline can be requested by calling the MVP Quality Improvement Department at 1(800)777-4793 extension 2602.