

Hemoglobin schedule and coverage FAQs

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Frequently asked questions about hemoglobin screening and medical coverage

The WIC ARPA waivers provide increased flexibility for using hemoglobin measurements from the health care provider in place of screening at the WIC clinic. With these flexibilities comes questions about the timing of hemoglobin testing by health care providers and medical coverage of those tests. This document will provide some clarification on hemoglobin testing schedules and medical coverage.

Why does WIC conduct the first hemoglobin screening at 9 months of age and health care providers typically screen at one year of age?

- The WIC program follows The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations. The CDC determined that children between 9 and 18 months of age are at the highest risk of any age group for iron deficiency anemia. The CDC recommends screening children between 9 and 12 months of age and then again about 6 months later. Due to that recommendation, the infant midcertification occurs around 9 months of age and includes a hemoglobin screening.
- [The Minnesota Child and Teen Checkups \(C&TC\) Schedule of Age-Related Screening Standards](#) is based on Recommendations for Preventative Pediatric Health Care, Bright Futures/The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). The AAP recommends universal screening of hemoglobin at approximately 1 year of age.
 - Hemoglobin or Hematocrit screening is required at one C&TC visit between 9 and 15 months of age and once between 11 and 20 years of age for all menstruating youth.
 - Per the [AAP Periodicity Schedule](#), hemoglobin screening can occur earlier and more frequently than the 9–15-month age range. Note the **stars** on the AAP Periodicity Schedule indicating ages when risk assessment for Anemia should be performed with appropriate action to follow. The schedule recommends health care providers perform risk assessment for iron deficiency anemia starting at 4 months of age and continuing throughout childhood.
 - The AAP Pediatrics article [Diagnosis and Prevention of Iron Deficiency and Iron-Deficiency Anemia in Infants and Young Children \(0-3 Years of Age\)](#) includes a **Summary** describing iron deficiency risk assessment for infants and young children along with best practices for preventing iron deficiency. WIC staff are encouraged to be familiar with this information.

Can the cost of C&TC hemoglobin screening be reimbursed when conducted outside the 9–15-month age range?

- Our C&TC Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) partner has confirmed that a hemoglobin at other times would be covered **when part of the Child and Teen Checkup**. *Child & Teen Checkup is a comprehensive child health program provided to children and teens (newborns through the age of 20 years) enrolled in Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare.*
 - [The Minnesota Child and Teen Checkups \(C&TC\) Schedule of Age-Related Screening Standards](#) page 2 indicates that “This schedule is a minimum standard; additional C&TC visits or screening can be done and billed for as medically necessary.”
 - The Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) Provider Manual [C&TC Section](#) addresses covered services for medical screening and laboratory testing when part of the Child and Teen Checkup.
- C&TC coverage questions should be directed to dhs.childteencheckups@state.mn.us
- Providers should contact the [Minnesota Health Care Programs \(MHCP\) Provider Resource Center](#) for claims and policy questions.

Reference – Complete Listing of Hyperlinks

[The Minnesota Child and Teen Checkups \(C&TC\) Schedule of Age-Related Screening Standards](https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-3379-ENG)
(<https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-3379-ENG>)

[AAP Periodicity Schedule](https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/periodicity_schedule.pdf?) (https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/periodicity_schedule.pdf?)

[Diagnosis and Prevention of Iron Deficiency and Iron-Deficiency Anemia in Infants and Young Children \(0-3 Years of Age\)](#) (Diagnosis and Prevention of Iron Deficiency and Iron-Deficiency Anemia in Infants and Young Children (0–3 Years of Age) | Pediatrics | American Academy of Pediatrics (aap.org))

[C&TC Section](#)

(https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=DHS16_150092#overview)

[Minnesota Health Care Programs \(MHCP\) Provider Resource Center](#)

(<https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/contact-us/minnesota-health-care-programs/providers/>)

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