

# Guidelines in Screening and Reporting Elevated Blood Lead Levels: Lead Screening Requirements and Medical Management Recommendations For children ages 6 to 72 months

## RISK FACTORS ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

- - - ask at **each** child visit - - -

1. Is your child living in or regularly visiting, or has your child lived in or regularly visited, a house or childcare center built before 1978?
2. Does your child have a sibling or playmate who has or has had lead poisoning?
3. Does your child come in contact with an adult who works in an industry or has a hobby that uses lead (battery factory, steel smelter, stained glass, fishing or hunting)?
4. Has your child spent more than 1 week in South or Central American, Africa or Asia since their last blood test?
5. Does anyone in your family use ethnic or folk remedies, cosmetics or eat candies or use pottery imported from South or Central America, Africa or Asia?

**If the answer is YES or UNKNOWN to any of the questions, a blood lead test is necessary!**

Test all Medicaid children at 12 and 24 months of age, and children 3 to 6 years of age if never tested *regardless of their risk factors!*

### IT IS A FEDERAL REQUIREMENT Recommended Medical and Case Management Actions

Blood Lead Levels (BLL)	Recommended Medical and Case Management Actions							
	Confirmatory Blood Lead Test	Hospitalization	Chelation Therapy (A)	Blood Lead Level Retest	Referrals (B)	History and Physical (C)	Lead Poisoning Education (D)	Reducing Exposure and Absorption (E)
<b>&lt; 3.5 µg/dL</b>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>3.5 - 9 µg/dL</b>	Within 1 day to 3 months, venous or capillary	No	No	See <b>Retest Chart</b> below	Yes	Yes	YES	YES
<b>10-19 µg/dL</b>	within 1 day to 3 months, venous or capillary	No	No	see <b>Retest Chart</b> below	YES	YES	YES	YES
<b>20-44 µg/dL</b>	within 1 day to 1 Month, venous or capillary	No	No	see <b>Retest Chart</b> below	YES	YES	YES	YES
<b>45-69 µg/dL</b>	within 24- 48 hours, venous preferred	No, if home is lead-safe	YES	see <b>Retest Chart</b> below	YES	YES	YES	YES
<b>70 µg/dL or higher</b>	within 24 hours, venous only	<b>YES MEDICAL EMERGENCY</b>	YES	see <b>Retest Chart</b> below	YES	YES	YES	YES

**THERE IS NO SAFE LEVEL OF LEAD IN THE BODY – DAMAGE CAUSED BY LEAD POISONING IS PERMANENT AND IRREVERSIBLE!**

<sup>1</sup> If the child's blood lead level persists between 10-19 ug/dL (2 blood lead tests 3 months apart) proceed according to the level of care for 20-44 µg/dL.



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## Explanation of Recommended Medical and Case Management Actions

- (A) Chelation Therapy:** if chelation therapy is indicated, the child should be immediately removed from the hazardous environment until the child’s environment is made lead-safe; however, if the home is already lead-safe, the child may remain in the home unless hospitalization is indicated
- (B) Referrals:** GCLPPP will contact local health department to assist in case management and conduct environmental investigations
- (C) History and physical:** take medical, environmental, and nutritional history; test for anemia and iron deficiency; assess neurological, psychosocial, and language development; screen all siblings under age 6; evaluate risk of other family members, especially pregnant women
- (D) Lead poisoning education:** discuss sources, effects of lead, and hazards associated with living in a pre-1978 and/or renovating a pre-1978 home, during prenatal care and well childcare at 3, 6, and 12 months; explain what blood lead levels mean; resources are available online from CDC, EPA and HUD
- (E) Reducing exposure and absorption:** discuss damp cleaning to remove lead dust on surfaces; eliminating access to deteriorating lead paint surfaces, and ensuring regular meals which are low in fat and rich in calcium and iron; resources are available online from CDC, EPA and HUD

### Retest Chart

Use this chart to determine when to retest children who are *confirmed as lead poisoned*.  
Venous testing is **strongly preferred**, but capillary testing is acceptable.

If the child’s last confirmed BLL was...	and...	
	if the child’s blood lead level HAS NOT DROPPED at least 3 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$ over a span of at least 3 months...	if the child’s blood lead level HAS DROPPED at least 3 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$ over a span of at least 3 months...
then test the child again in...		
3.5 - 9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	3 months	6 months
10-19 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	3 months	3 months
20-24 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	1 month	2 months
25-44 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	1 month	1 month
45-69 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	1 month after chelation	1 month after chelation
$\geq 70$ $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	1 month after chelation	1 month after chelation
Retesting should occur until the blood lead level is less than 3.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ for six months, all lead hazards have been removed, housing is made lead-safe, and no new exposure exists.		

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