

Revision date: January 2023

No. of Pages: 2

Policy

A Competent Professional Authority (CPA) must assess the history of lead testing during nutrition eligibility determination for every infant, child, and woman (prenatal and postpartum).

Infants and children with elevated blood lead levels must be referred to the Children 1st program (See [NS 200.06 Participant Referral to Other Agencies](#)).

Purpose

To assess all WIC participants for elevated blood lead levels, share preventative strategies, and provide appropriate referrals for treatment and follow-up.

Procedures

- I. Assess blood lead level by asking parent/caretaker(s) if their infant/child has ever had their blood lead levels tested.
 - A. Input, on the Lab Screen of the “GA-WIC” system, the lead value and date of bloodwork, if available.
 - B. Refer infant and child participants to their medical provider if:
 1. A lead test cannot be confirmed
 2. Infants with reported elevated blood lead level (≥ 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{deciliter}$)
 3. Children with reported elevated blood lead level (≥ 3.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{deciliter}$)
 4. One or more of the following scenarios is identified during the nutrition eligibility determination process:
 - a. Reported elevated blood lead level (≥ 3.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{deciliter}$) without follow up for greater than 12 months
 - b. Participant is consuming non-nutritive items such as dirt, clay, chalk, ashes, cigarette butts, or other substances
 - c. Parent or caregiver is concerned about lead exposure
 - d. Participant has a sibling or playmate with elevated blood lead levels
 - e. Participant is a recent immigrant, refugee, or foreign adoptee
 - f. Household member works or has a hobby where lead is involved
 - g. Family consumes unregulated imported foods
 - h. Family resides in an area identified by the local health department as “at-risk”
- II. Assess blood lead level by asking all women if they have ever had their blood lead levels tested.
 - A. Input, on the Lab Screen of the “GA-WIC” system, the lead value, and the date of bloodwork, if available.
 - B. Refer to the medical provider if one or more of the following is identified during the nutrition eligibility determination process:
 1. Reported elevated blood lead level (≥ 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{deciliter}$)

Effective Date: October 2020

Revision date: January 2023

No. of Pages: 2

2. Discloses consumption of non-nutritive items such as dirt, clay, chalk, ashes, cigarette butts, or other substances
 3. Participant is concerned about lead exposure
 4. Participant has a child or infant with elevated blood lead levels
 5. Participant is recent immigrant or refugee
 6. Household member works or has a hobby where lead is involved
 7. Family consumes unregulated imported foods
 8. Family resides in an area identified by the local health department as “at-risk”
- III. Enter a Lead Screening referral on the “Referral Screen” in the “GA-WIC” system.
- A. Select “Referred” if encouraging participant to see their medical provider for follow up
 - B. Select “Declined” if participant/caregiver refuses referral
 - C. Select “Enrolled” if participant has been tested and the value returned normal
- IV. Encourage the following guidance related to environmental exposure prevention and nutrition recommendations by discussing:
- A. Foods rich in Iron
 - B. Foods high in Vitamin C
 - C. Foods rich in Calcium
 - D. General balanced diet using WIC foods
 - E. Common locations where lead can be found
 - F. Common hobbies and jobs where lead can be found
 - G. Lead education materials identified on the State Approved Education Materials List for reinforcement

Authority

USDA WIC Nutrition Risk- Elevated Blood Levels Justification

7 CFR 246.7(e)(2)(ii)

Definitions and Supporting Information:

Competent Professional Authority (CPA)- An individual on the local agency staff who is authorized to determine nutritional risk and prescribe supplemental foods. The following individuals may be authorized and trained to serve as a CPA: physicians, nutritionists (bachelor’s or master’s degree in Nutritional Sciences, Community Nutrition, Clinical Nutrition, Dietetics, Public Health Nutrition), registered dietitians, licensed dietitians, registered nurses, and physician assistants (certified by the National Committee on certification of Physicians Assistants or certified by the State medical certifying authority), or State or local medically trained health officials.

Effective Date: October 2020

Revision date: January 2023

No. of Pages: 2

Month & Year	Reasons for Revision	Summary
January 2023	USDA Requirement	Change of policy name from “CT – 820.05 Lead Screening” Lead assessment requirement: Must be completed with each certification. Updated blood lead level reference value for children.