

March 2011 – New Minnesota Childhood Blood Lead Screening Guidelines

Changes to Follow-Up Care for Blood Lead Levels between 5 and 9.9 µg/dL

In response to the growing evidence that low level lead exposure (<10 µg/dL) can have harmful effects on cognitive functioning in children, House File No. 419 was passed in 2010, requiring changes be made to both clinical and case management guidelines around blood lead levels that exceed 5 µg/dL. The following changes were released by the Minnesota Department of Health in March 2011.

Response to capillary test results of 5 ug/dL or higher

If a capillary test shows a result of 5 µg/dL or higher, a follow-up venous test must be administered within the following time frame:

If the result of a capillary screening test (µg/dL) is:	Perform diagnostic test on venous blood within :
5 – 14.9	3 months
15 – 44.9	1 week
45 – 59.9	48 hours
Greater than 60	Immediately (as an emergency lab test)

****Please note*: the follow-up test must be performed **within** the above time periods. The sooner the test is performed, the better.

5-9.9 µg/dL capillary result

Medical Evaluation

- These new guidelines recommend the addition of a **confirmatory venous test within 3 months** for those children with capillary draws who tested in the 5-9.9 µg/dL range.

Medical Management

- Families should be provided with anticipatory guidance, including the discussion of high risk categories¹, primary sources of lead exposure and preventative measures to keep children safe from lead, including:
 - age of home (built before 1978);
 - condition of painted surfaces (chipped/peeling);
 - pica;
 - remodeling;
 - occupations/hobbies; and
 - folk remedies.
- Written, culturally appropriate lead poisoning prevention literature should be provided to families.

¹ A high risk child lives in Minneapolis or St. Paul, receives services from Minnesota Care or Medical Assistance (MA), or fits one of the following criteria: a) lived in or regularly visits home built before 1960; b) lived in or regularly visits home built between 1960 and 1978 that is being, or has been, renovated; or C) sibling/playmate has EBL.

5-9.9 µg/dL venous result

Medical Evaluation

- Check nutritional status (especially iron and calcium). Rule out any iron deficiency and treat if present.

Medical Management

- Families should be educated on:
 - potential sources of lead and way to reduce or remove exposure;
 - nutrition – encourage high iron/high calcium diet (supplement if deficient);
 - dangers of improper lead abatement/remodeling; and
 - chronic nature of problem (and the need to monitor frequently).
- Written, culturally appropriate lead poisoning prevention literature should be provided to families.
- Screen other children in the home who are less than 6 years old.
- Repeat venous test within 6 months.

*****Please note:** all recommendations for follow-up testing of ≥ 10 µg/dL have remained the same and it is critical that these results continue to be the highest priority for medical and public health resources.

For more information on childhood blood lead case management and clinical treatment guidelines for Minnesota, please contact the Minnesota Department of Health at (651) 201-4620 or visit <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/lead/guidelines/index.html>.

Outreach Efforts for Blood Lead Levels Between 5 and 9.9 µg/dL

For those children who test within the 5-9.9 µg/dL range, the Minneapolis Department Health and Family Support (MDHFS) contacts families via phone and letters, providing them with information on lead poisoning prevention strategies. Additionally, MDHFS connects families with community-based organizations to conduct **free** in-home visual lead assessments. The goal of the assessment is to determine how much lead dust is present and to identify lead and other hazards in the home. These organizations also help enroll families into Minneapolis' and Hennepin County's lead grant programs, which offer financial assistance to eligible families in covering some of the costs associated with making a home lead safe.

The Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support works with the following community-based organizations (language proficiencies are in parentheses):

- CLEARCorps USA (English, Spanish, Somali)
- Southeast Asian Community Council (English, Hmong, Laos, Thai)
- Sustainable Resources Center (English, Spanish, Somali, Hmong)

If patients would like to receive free services from one of the above organizations, please contact Andrea Aga at the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support, 612-673-3207.