



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health**

1931 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1931

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Albert A. Delia, Acting Secretary

Laura Gerald, MD, MPH
State Health Director

July 5, 2012

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Ed Norman, Manager
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
Environmental Health Section

Dr. Lou Turner, Acting Director
State Laboratory of Public Health

TO: Local Health Directors & Private Medical Providers

RE: Revised Follow-up Schedule for Blood Lead Testing

As a result of recently revised recommendations from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the NC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and the State Laboratory of Public Health have developed a revised follow-up schedule for diagnostic/confirmed blood lead levels.

The most significant revision is the recommendation to begin diagnostic (venous) testing for all children who have an initial blood lead test result equal to or greater than a reference value of 5 micrograms per deciliter (5 µg/dL). The CDC anticipates that this change will increase the need for follow-up testing by four-fold. North Carolina data indicates there may be closer to ten times as many children requiring follow-up under the revised protocol compared to the previous guidelines, which recommended diagnostic testing beginning at 10 µg/dL. Environmental investigation guidelines are not affected by these revised recommendations; however, other revisions to clinical case management are addressed. A chart summarizing these recommendations is attached.

We appreciate your assistance in implementing these revised recommendations. For more information, please contact Ed Norman at (919) 707-5951 or at ed.norman@dhhs.nc.gov.

cc: Danny Staley
Layton Long
Megan Davies, MD
Kevin Ryan, MD
Steve Shore, NC Pediatric Society
Greg Griggs, NC Academy of Family Physicians
Bob Seligson, NC Medical Society



North Carolina Public Health
Working for a healthier and safer North Carolina
Everywhere. Everyday. Everybody.



Location: 5605 Six Forks Rd. • Raleigh, N.C. 27609-3811
An Equal Opportunity Employer

**NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
FOLLOW-UP SCHEDULE FOR DIAGNOSTIC / CONFIRMED BLOOD LEAD LEVELS
FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF SIX**

Blood Lead Level	Response
<5 µg/dL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report blood lead test result to parent & document notification • Educate family about lead sources, environmental assessment & prevention of lead exposure • Perform <u>another</u> blood lead test at age 2, earlier if risk of exposure increases
<p><i>All diagnostic (i.e., confirmation) tests should be performed as soon as possible within the time periods listed below.</i></p> <p>If diagnostic test result falls into a lower category - follow response for that risk category. If diagnostic <u>or</u> follow-up test result falls in a higher category – conduct <u>another</u> diagnostic test based on the higher risk category & follow response for that risk category.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">5-9 µg/dL</p> <p>(Diagnostic test within 3 months)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report blood lead test result to parent & document notification • Educate family about lead sources, environmental assessment & prevention of lead exposure <p>If diagnostic test result is 5-9 µg/dL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct nutritional assessment • Take environmental history to identify lead sources & emphasize the importance of environmental assessment to identify and mitigate lead hazards • Continue follow-up testing every 3 months until 2 consecutive tests are <5 µg/dL • Test other children under the age of six in same household
<p style="text-align: center;">10-19 µg/dL</p> <p>(Diagnostic test within 1 month)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report blood lead test result to parent & document notification • Educate family about lead sources and prevention of lead exposure <p>If diagnostic test result is 10-19 µg/dL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct nutritional assessment and refer to WIC Program • Take environmental history to identify sources of lead exposure • Refer to local health department for environmental investigation • Continue follow-up testing every 1-3 months until 2 consecutive tests are <5 µg/dL • Test other children under the age of six in same household
<p style="text-align: center;">20-69 µg/dL</p> <p>(Diagnostic test within 1 week at 20-44 µg/dL within 48 hours at 45-59 µg/dL within 24 hours at 60-69 µg/dL)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report blood lead test result to parent & document notification • Educate family about lead sources and prevention of lead exposure <p>If diagnostic test result is 20-69 µg/dL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct nutritional assessment and refer to WIC Program • Take environmental history to identify sources of lead exposure • Refer to local health department for required environmental investigation • Provide clinical management • Refer children to CDSA* Early Intervention or CC4C** as appropriate • Refer to Social Services as needed for housing or additional medical assistance • Continue follow-up testing every 1 month until 2 consecutive tests are <5 µg/dL • Test other children under the age of six in same household
<p style="text-align: center;">≥70 µg/dL</p> <p>(Diagnostic test immediately as emergency lab test)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report blood lead test result to parent & document notification • Educate family about lead sources and prevention of lead exposure <p>If diagnostic test result is ≥70 µg/dL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitalize child and begin medical treatment immediately • Conduct nutritional assessment and refer to WIC Program • Take environmental history to identify sources of lead exposure • Refer to local health department for required environmental investigation • Refer children to CDSA* Early Intervention or CC4C** as appropriate • Refer to Social Services as needed for housing or additional medical assistance • Continue follow-up testing every 1 month until 2 consecutive tests are <5 µg/dL • Test other children under the age of six in same household

*Children's Developmental Service Agency

**Care Coordination for Children