

Procedures for Elevated Capillary Blood Lead Tests: Facilitating Confirmatory Venous Tests and Closing Unconfirmed Capillary Blood Lead Tests

Purpose

Define actions required for Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) case management to effectively manage and resolve capillary tests that are greater than or equal to the blood lead reference value ([DEFINITION OF ELEVATED BLOOD LEAD TEST RESULT \(michigan.gov\)](#)).

Background

Elevated capillary results are considered positive screening results that require a venous confirmatory test. The goal in contacting individuals with elevated capillary levels is to provide education and encourage and facilitate venous confirmatory testing. Individuals with an elevated capillary level are not considered an eligible case for case management until they have a venous confirmatory level equal to or greater than the blood lead reference value.

Procedure

Results Received Procedure: Download weekly blood lead level report via DCH-File Transfer on a weekly basis, except for when notified by MI-CLPPP staff of a daily EBLL \geq 20 μ g/dL then the download of the DEH-File Transfer must occur on the same business day of contact by MI-CLPPP. Review reports to identify individuals with elevated capillary levels who have not been reported previously and follow contact procedure.¹

Contact Procedure: Parent or guardian may be contacted by any role deemed appropriate by local health policy and scope of practice. Contact must be pursued in the following manner to encourage and facilitate venous confirmatory testing and to provide education regarding effects of lead exposure, sources of lead hazards and daily lead safe practices. Contact method should be selected based on severity of blood lead level and the timeframe below; initial contact regarding children with levels \geq 10 μ g/dL must be made by phone.

Blood lead level	Time frame for initial contact
3.5-9.9 μ g/dL	Within 2 weeks of referral
10-19.9 μ g/dL	Within 1 week of referral, initial contact must be by phone
20-44.9 μ g/dL	Within 3 days of referral, initial contact must be by phone
45 + μ g/dL	Within 24 hours of referral, initial contact must be by phone

¹ LHDs are welcome to contact and provide education to families of children with BLLs less than 3.5 μ g/dL, but this is not a requirement or a reimbursable event.

1. At least three contact attempts, using two different methods, must be made prior to proceeding to the closure procedure. Please consider the severity of blood lead level when selecting contact methods; levels ≥ 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ must be contacted by phone first.
2. Contact attempts may include but are not limited to the options below. Consult local health department policy to ensure you are following HIPAA guidelines.
 - a. Phone call.
 - b. Letter ([Family Confirmatory Venous](#)) with the enclosures: "[What Your Child's Blood Lead Test Means](#)," "[Is Your Child Safe From Lead Poisoning](#)" and the [Lead Safe Home Application](#).
 - c. Email, include link <https://www.michigan.gov/mileadsafe> and any other educational resources as identified by local public health.
 - d. Text, include link <https://www.michigan.gov/mileadsafe> and any other educational resources as identified by local public health.
 - e. Unannounced home visit.
3. If contact attempts are unsuccessful, communicate with the child's primary care provider and/or Medicaid Health Plan to facilitate assistance in reaching the parent or guardian. If child's blood lead level is ≥ 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$, contact Mi-CLPPP Nurse Consultant to discuss next steps.
4. Document all contact attempts in the case management database system as instructed in the MiCLEAR manual.
5. Refer to "Managing Elevated Venous Blood Lead Tests Policy" for follow up on children with an elevated confirmatory venous test.

Closure Procedure: Elevated capillary screen cases will be closed after one or more of the following outcomes: 1) The absence of a confirmatory venous test within 90 days of the date Local Public Health provided the family case management education about an elevated capillary lead test result; 2) Unable to contact legal parent or guardian using the above Contact Procedure; 3) Child moved out of Michigan; 4) Venous confirmatory result is less than the blood lead reference value. Actions required before elevated capillary tests can be closed are described for each closure reason as follows. Case closure must be documented in case management database (see Case Closure documentation).

1. **Absence of a confirmatory venous test within 90 days of education.**
 - a. Verbal education and/or written letter with education ([Family Confirmatory Venous](#)) provided to legal parent or guardian regarding the need for a venous confirmatory test, the effects of lead poisoning, sources of lead hazards and daily lead safe practices.
 - b. Parent refuses (by phone or in writing) to get venous test for child or 90 days have passed since education was provided to the parent or guardian, without a follow-up confirmatory venous test.
 - c. Primary Care Provider notified of continued need for a venous confirmation test.
2. **Unable to contact legal parent or guardian.**
 - a. Complete the Contact Procedures listed above in this policy.

- a. Letter ([Family Confirmatory Venous](#)) mailed to family with the enclosures: “[What Your Child's Blood Lead Test Means](#),” “[Is Your Child Safe From Lead Poisoning](#)” and the [Lead Safe Home Application](#)
- b. Primary Care Provider notified of continued need for a venous confirmation test.
3. **Child moved out of Michigan or Local Health Department jurisdiction.**
 - b. If the child moved out of Michigan:
 - i. Letter ([Family Confirmatory Venous](#)) mailed to last known address with the enclosures: “[What Your Child's Blood Lead Test Means](#),” “[Is Your Child Safe From Lead Poisoning](#)” and the [Lead Safe Home Application](#)
 - c. If the child moved to another LHD jurisdiction:
 - i. Notify MDHHS CLPPP.
4. **Venous confirmatory result is less than the blood lead reference value.**
 - a. Parent or guardian notified of venous test results.
 - b. Education by phone or in writing provided regarding daily lead safe practices and future lead testing if applicable.

Definitions

Eligible Case: A child under sixteen years of age residing in Michigan with a venous blood lead level greater than or equal to the blood lead reference value whose caregiver has not accepted or declined case management services.

Contact

For additional information on this procedure, contact MDHHS CLPPP at [MDHHS-CLPPP@michigan.gov](#) or (517)335-8885.