



# Lead Testing Requirements and Medical Management Recommendations

for Children Ages 6 to 72 Months

Revised 5/2007

Ohio Department of Health  
Bureau of Child and Family Health Services • Ohio Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (OCLPPP)

**There is no safe level of lead in the blood.  
Any confirmed level of lead in the blood is a reliable indicator that the child has been exposed to lead.**

**Administer two tests at age 1 and 2 years, or up to age 6 years if no test has been administered before (or as medically necessary) based on the following criteria.**

- 1) Is the child on Medicaid?  
If yes, **TEST — IT'S OHIO LAW AND A FEDERAL REQUIREMENT.** If no, go to step 2.
- 2) Does the child live in a High Risk ZIP Code? (contact OCLPPP or visit [www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov) for list)  
If yes, **TEST — IT'S OHIO LAW!** If no, go to step 3.
- 3) Ask the parent five key questions to assess risk.  
Use the Risk Assessment Questionnaire (RAQ) and ask if the child:
  - Lives in or regularly visits a house built before 1950? This includes a day care center, preschool, or home of a baby sitter or relative.
  - Lives in or visits a house that has peeling, chipping, dusting or chalking paint?
  - Lives in or visits a house built before 1978 with recent, ongoing, or planned renovation/remodeling?
  - Has a sibling or playmate who has or did have lead poisoning?
  - Frequently comes in contact with an adult who has a hobby or works with lead? Examples are construction, welding, pottery, painting, and casting ammunition.

**If the family answers "yes" or "do not know" to any of the above questions, TEST.  
If the family answers "no," provide anticipatory guidance and follow up at the next visit.**

**All blood lead test results, by law, are required to be reported to ODH by the analyzing laboratory.**

Blood Lead Levels (BLL)	Recommended Medical Management Actions
0–5 µg/dL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide anticipatory guidance: Discuss sources, effects of lead, and hazards associated with renovating pre-1978 homes during well child care at 6, 9 and 12 months.</li> <li>• Test blood lead level (BLL) again in 12 months.</li> </ul>
6–9 µg/dL	<p><b>In addition to medical management actions listed above:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain that there is no safe level of lead in the blood.</li> <li>• Discuss wet 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.</li> <li>• Refer to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) or for other nutritional counseling.</li> </ul>
10–14 µg/dL	<p><b>In addition to medical management actions listed above:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test BLL again in 2 months.</li> <li>• Refer to Help Me Grow program.</li> </ul> <p><b>State or local health department will conduct a public health lead investigation.</b></p>
15–19 µg/dL	<p><b>In addition to medical management actions listed above:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Confirm results by venous or second capillary blood sample within one month.</b></li> </ul> <p>If BLL persists in this level (i.e., 2 confirmed tests at least 2 months apart), proceed according to actions for BLL 20–44.</p>
20–44 µg/dL	<p><b>In addition to medical management actions listed above:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take medical, environmental and nutritional Hx; test for anemia and iron deficiency; assess neurologic, psychosocial and language development; screen all siblings under 6; and evaluate risk of other family members (e.g., pregnant women).</li> <li>• Refer to the Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh) program, if appropriate.</li> <li>• Test BLL every 1–2 months until the BLL remains &lt;15µg/dL for at least 6 months and lead hazards have been removed or made lead-safe, and no new exposure exists.</li> </ul>
45–69 µg/dL	<p><b>In addition to medical management actions listed above:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Confirm fingerstick (capillary) results by venous blood sample within 24 hours.</b></li> <li>• <b>Consider chelation therapy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ Obtain a venous specimen to ensure that therapy is based on current and reliable information.</li> <li>▼ Refer to a specialist.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Test BLL again in 1 month.</li> </ul>
≥ 70 µg/dL	<p><b>This level is a medical emergency: Order an urgent repeat venous BLL test, but begin chelation immediately!</b></p> <p><b>Utilize medical management actions listed above.</b></p>

### ODH Information and Referrals

Help Me Grow Hotline: 1-800-755-GROW (1-800-755-4769)  
Bureau Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh): 614-466-1700

Bureau of Early Intervention (EI): 614-644-8389  
Women, Infants and Children (WIC): 614-466-4110

Medicaid Provider Hotline: 800-686-6108  
ODH OCLPPP: 614-466-5332