



# Guidelines for Lead Risk Evaluation and Blood Lead Testing

- **Lead risk** evaluation is the use of the Childhood Lead Risk Questionnaire to determine the risk of potential for lead exposures.
- **Blood lead testing** is defined as obtaining a blood lead test either by capillary or venous methodology.
- **It is always appropriate to obtain a diagnostic blood lead test when a child is symptomatic or a potential exposure to lead has been identified, regardless of child's age.**
- Federal mandates and the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services' (HFS) policy require that all children enrolled in HFS medical programs be considered at risk for lead poisoning and receive a blood lead test prior to age **12 months and 24 months**. Children older than the age of 24 months, up to 72 months of age, for whom no record of a previous blood lead test exists, also should receive a blood lead test. **All children enrolled in HFS medical programs are expected to receive a blood lead test regardless of where they live.** (Consult Handbook for Providers of Healthy Kids Services, Chapter HK-203.3.1, for more blood lead testing and reporting information.)
- Illinois has defined ZIP code areas at high risk and low risk for lead exposure based on housing age and poverty rates. Review the list of ZIP codes and determine status of ZIP codes in your area.

## Childhood Lead Risk Questionnaire

- ◆ Complete the Childhood Lead Risk Questionnaire during a health care visit for children through 6 years of age, beginning at 6 months
  - If responses to all the questions are "NO," re-evaluate at every well child visit or more often if deemed necessary.
  - If any response is "YES" or "DON'T KNOW," obtain a blood lead test.
- ◆ If the child is age 3 years to 7 years **and**
  - there are any "YES" or "DON'T KNOW" answers **and**
  - has had two successive blood lead test results that were each less than < 10 mcg/dL with one of these tests at age 2 years or older **and**
  - risks of exposure to lead have not changed, **further blood lead tests are not necessary.**
- ◆ If the child is 3 years to 7 years of age, **and**
  - all answers to the Childhood Lead Risk Questionnaire are "NO," a blood lead test is not necessary.

## For children living in Chicago:

Lead evaluation and testing guidelines differ for the city of Chicago. For information for the Chicago Department of Public Health's you may access their Web site at [www.cityofchicago.org/health](http://www.cityofchicago.org/health).

**Illinois Lead Program**  
**866-909-3572 or 217-782-3517**  
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