



State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals

LOUISIANA CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM

UNIVERSAL Blood Lead Screening of Children under 6 years of Age

October 23, 2008

Dear Colleagues,

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health would like to inform medical providers of changes made to state regulations pertaining to blood lead screening of children in Louisiana. Low blood lead screening rates of children across the state (20% average) resulted in inadequate prevalence data to identify geographic high risk parishes. Therefore, in an effort to improve screening rates of children in Louisiana, the following amendments were made to the Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) 48: V. §7005, §7007, and §7009, effective October 20, 2008:

§7005. *Mandatory Blood Lead Screening of Children in High Risk Geographical Areas*

The amendment extends the designation of high-risk areas for childhood lead poisoning from Morehouse, Orleans, Tensas, and West Carroll to **ALL Parishes** in the state of Louisiana. Therefore, medical providers of routine primary care services to children ages 6 months to 72 months who reside or spend more than 10 hours per week in any Louisiana parish must have such children screened in accordance with practices consistent with the current Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines and in compliance with Louisiana Medicaid (KIDMED).

§7007. *Mandatory Case Reporting by Health Care Providers*

To ensure appropriate and timely follow-up, medical providers must now report a lead case, which is a blood lead level ≥ 15 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$), to the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Office of Public Health **within 24 business hours** (instead of 48 hours) by fax to (504) 219-4452, and the original lead case reporting form shall be mailed within 5 business days to the Louisiana Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention program, Office of Public Health, Room 141, 3101 West Napoleon, Metairie, LA 70001.

§7009. *Reporting Requirements of Blood Lead Levels by Laboratories AND Health Care Providers Performing Office-Based Blood Lead Analyses for Public Health Surveillance*

All results of blood lead testing for children under 72 months of age must be reported to the Louisiana Lead Poisoning Prevention Program by electronic transmission regardless of the blood lead level.

The Louisiana Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program needs your continued commitment to creating a lead safe environment for children and their families. If you have any questions about the information presented in this letter, please contact LACLPPP at (504) 219-4413. Also, please visit the LACLPPP website at www.genetics.dhh.louisiana.gov for additional provider information and for educational booklets for families on lead poisoning prevention, which are available at no cost to providers.

Sincerely,

Gina Payton Lagarde, MD, MBA