

HEALTH RISK EDUCATION SHEET

Dear Parents/ Guardians:

Young children are at risk for health conditions that we want to make sure you understand. This letter will briefly describe three health conditions and how your child may be at risk for the conditions(s). If you have questions, please contact one of the nurse practitioners at (608) 275-6740.

Lead Poisoning. Young children exposed to lead-paint dust or chips, or other sources, can have learning and behavior problems. Children who have lived in or visited a home built before 1950, or ever lived in a house built before 1978 that had ongoing remodeling are at risk. If your child has never had a blood lead test, or your child has recently lived in a house with old pain, check with your child's primary care provider about a blood lead test. You can obtain a handout about lead poisoning from the nurses or the enrollment team. These handouts are translated into Hmong and Spanish and are provided by the WI Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program—see also back of this page.

Anemia. Anemia means the child has low levels of iron. Low levels of iron in a young child can affect the child's brain development and learning. If your child drinks too much milk or juice and does not eat enough iron containing food, he/she may be at risk for anemia. WIC test children's blood for anemia for free. Please ask staff for assistance in contacting WIC.

Tuberculosis (TB). Tuberculosis is an infectious disease caused by bacteria. To become infected with TB, a young child would need to be in close contact with someone who has active tuberculosis. In some US cities, Mexico and some other countries, active TB occurs much more frequently and so a child may be at greater risk of coming into contact with TB germs. Speak with your child's primary provider if your child has been around another person who might have had tuberculosis or you have traveled out of Wisconsin in the past 12 months to an area that has many people who have TB.

LEAD FACTS FOR PARENTS AND PHYSICIANS

Did you know?

Estimates based on screening show that low-income and MA-eligible children are nearly five times more likely to have harmful blood lead levels than the general child population.

Low-income families are disproportionately at risk as these families tend to live in older housing which may contain lead-based paint or lead plumbing.

Federal Law

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) require that all low-income Medicaid-eligible children be screened for lead toxicity using a blood test. All children who qualify for Medicaid are considered “at risk” for the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment program (EPSDT) blood risk assessment.

CMS requires that all Medicaid-eligible children receive a screening blood test at 12 months and 24 months of age. Children between the ages of 36 to 72 months must also have a screening blood test if a lead toxicity screening has not been previously conducted.

HOW DO YOU DETERMINE IF A CHILD IS AT RISK FOR LEAD POISONING?

There are three ways to determine if a child is at risk:

- Medicaid & Health Check families, **TEST, IT’S FEDERAL LAW!**
- High risk zip codes, **TEST!**
- Risk Assessment questionnaire in Low Risk zip codes (for those other than MA children), if the answer to any question is yes or unknown, **TEST!**
 - Does your child...
 - Live in or regularly visit a house built before 1950? *This includes child care center, preschool, or home of baby-sitter or relative.*
 - Live in or visit a house with peeling, chipping, dusting or chalking paint?
 - Live in or visit a house built before 1978 with recent, ongoing or planned renovation/remodeling?
 - Have a sibling or playmate who has or did have lead poisoning?
 - Frequently come in contact with an adult who works with or has a hobby with lead? (*i.e.: construction, welding, pottery, painting, casting ammunition*).