



MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR BLOOD LEAD LEVELS IN ADULTS

The following categories represent general guidelines. Primary management of lead poisoning is source identification and removal from exposure. A single BLL does not reflect cumulative body burden, nor predict long-term effects. **Recommendations for medical treatment of children and adults differ.*** Treatment decisions should be made in consultation with a physician knowledgeable about lead poisoning medical management.

Blood Lead Level ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$)	Management Recommendations
<5	No action needed
5-9	Discuss health risks Minimize exposure Consider removal for pregnancy
10-19	Decrease exposure Remove from exposure for pregnancy Consider removal for certain medical conditions or $\text{BLL} \geq 10$ for an extended period of time Monitor BLL
20-29	Remove from exposure for pregnancy Remove from exposure if repeat BLL in 4 weeks remains ≥ 20 Annual lead medical exam recommended
30-79	Remove from exposure Prompt medical evaluation Chelation not indicated unless $\text{BLL} > 50$ with significant symptoms
≥ 80	Remove from exposure Urgent medical evaluation Chelation may be indicated if symptomatic and /or $\text{BLL} \geq 100$

Note: OSHA job protections apply whenever a licensed health care provider removes an individual from lead exposure due to an elevated blood lead level or a medical condition that places them at greater risk from lead exposure.

For Additional Information

Medical Guidelines – “Medical Guidelines for the Lead-Exposed Worker”

www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/olppp/Documents/medgdln.pdf

Cal/OSHA Lead Standards – www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/olppp/Pages/Links.aspx

Health care providers with questions about the medical management of lead-exposed California workers can call Dr. Ray Meister at (510) 620-5731, (866) 627-1587 (toll-free number for California callers only)

***Management Guidelines On Childhood Lead Poisoning** –

www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/clppb/documents/Provider%20mgmt%20guides.pdf

www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/clppb or call (510) 620-5600