
SECTION: REFERRALS, HEALTH LINKAGES AND INTEGRATION, AND OUTREACH

SUBJECT: Program Required Screening and Referral

ITEM: Blood Lead

Policy

The local agency (LA) shall screen and refer for blood lead testing at each child's one year certification appointment or upon enrollment of a child by asking the parent or caretaker if the child has had a blood lead screen test. If the child has not had a blood lead screening test, or the parent or caretaker does not know if the child has had the test, local agency staff shall provide referral services.

The expense of conducting blood lead screening tests is an unallowable WIC cost.

Required Procedures

Implementation of Screening and Referral Activities

The following lists the required procedures for blood lead screening:

- I. When the child has not had a blood lead screening test or if it is not known whether the child has had a test, LA staff shall:
 - A. advise parents/caretakers that blood lead screening test results are requested as part of the WIC certification and health screening process, but are not required to obtain WIC benefits, and
 - B. encourage the parent/caretaker to obtain the test through the child's health care provider or provide referral services to a program where the test can be performed.
- II. When blood lead test information is provided, the LA staff shall determine if the lead level meets the criteria for lead poisoning ($\geq 10 \mu\text{g/dl}$), at which time the LA shall:
 - A. enter the lead poisoning biochemical risk code in ISIS (B92);
 - B. make referrals for treatment for lead exposure, if not already in treatment;
 - C. emphasize the importance of diet in the treatment of lead exposure;
 - D. provide information on how to reduce the exposure to lead; and
 - E. offer an appointment with the WIC Nutrition Professional to assist in developing an appropriate plan for nutrition intervention.

- III. Participants shall not be denied WIC benefits or be purposely single-issued food instruments, rather than double or triple-issued if eligible for this benefit, due to blood lead screening.
- IV. The expense of conducting blood lead screening tests is unallowable as a WIC cost.

Guidelines

The WIC Pediatric Form includes an area for the participant's healthcare provider to record lead blood screening test results.

Resources

California WIC Program pamphlet, [Lead is a Poison](#) (English), [Lead is a Poison](#) (Spanish) covers the required topics listed in section II, C, D, and E of this policy.

The State of California Department of Public Health (CDPH) [Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch \(CLPPB\)](#) is the head agency for blood lead screening and lead poisoning prevention activities.

Authority

WRO Policy Memo 807-U
All States Memorandum 01-13