

**SECTION:** CERTIFICATION

**SUBJECT:** Certification Requirements: Services/Information  
Provided by the Local Agency at Time of Certification

**ITEM:** *Blood Lead Screening and Referral*



**Policy** A local agency shall ensure that the parent or caretaker is asked if the infant/child has had a blood lead screening test at each child's one year recertification appointment or upon enrollment of a child. If the infant/child has not had a test, staff must make a referral to their health care provider to obtain such a test. However, participants should clearly understand that blood lead screening and referral procedures will not be used to deny eligibility for WIC services or nutrition assistance, (nor prevent double or triple issuance of food instruments for participants eligible for this benefit).

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**Basis for policy** WRO Policy Memo 807-U – All States Memorandum 01-13

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**Role of WIC** The State of California Department of Health Services (DHS) Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch (CLPPB) is the lead agency in blood lead screening, and is responsible for the design of lead poisoning prevention activities. As an adjunct to health services, the WIC Program's role in blood lead screening and referral is to support existing funded lead poisoning prevention activities. WIC activities should enhance rather than substitute for ongoing Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program initiatives.

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

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**Implementation (Screening and Referral Activities at Local Agencies)** When enrolling a child on the WIC Program or completing the one year recertification of a child, local agency staff shall ask the infant/child's parent/caretaker if the infant/child has had a blood lead screening test. If the infant/child has not had a test, WIC staff shall provide a referral to a program where a lead test can be obtained. In January 2001, the WIC Pediatric Referral Form was modified to include an area for the participant's healthcare provider to record lead blood screening test results. When such medical information is provided, the local agency WIC staff shall determine if the lead level meets the criteria for "lead poisoning" ( $\geq 10 \mu\text{g/dl}$ ), at which time they would enter the lead poisoning biochemical risk code in ISIS (B92) and refer the participant to the WIC Registered Dietitian (RD). The WIC RD would then complete a nutrition education contact with the participant, create an individualized nutrition education plan and follow up as needed.

When scheduling WIC enrollment or one year recertification appointments for children, staff is encouraged to 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.

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**Documentation Requirements** At this time, there is no requirement for local agencies to document blood lead screening information in individual participant records in ISIS. However, State WIC Branch staff is encouraged to document their observations and discussion with local agency staff regarding the implementation of blood lead screening, referral and quality assurance procedures during Technical Assistance and Program Evaluation visits.

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**Confidentiality Requirements** Local agencies shall handle all blood lead screening test information in a confidential manner, as discussed in WPM 150-40.1 "Program Records: Access to Confidential Records."

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