

## N.J.A.C. 8:51A SCREENING OF CHILDREN FOR ELEVATED BLOOD LEAD LEVELS

On September 18, 2017 the New Jersey Department of Health adopted rules that continue to protect children less than 72 months of age from the toxic effects of lead exposure by requiring lead screening.

The rules apply to physicians, registered professional nurses, as appropriate, and licensed health care facilities that provide services to children less than 72 months of age.

1. Perform a risk assessment, if it has not been performed within 12 months prior to the provision of services, on each child who is at least six months and less than 72 months of age to determine:
  - if the child resides in or visits a house built before 1978 in which paint is peeling, chipping, or otherwise deteriorated;
  - if the child resides in or visits a house built before 1978 in which renovation work has recently been performed that involved removal or disturbance of paint; and
  - if the child resides with an adult who is engaged in an occupation or hobby where lead is used.
2. Provide anticipatory guidance to the parent or legal guardian on the major causes of elevated blood lead levels and the means of preventing lead exposure.
3. Perform screening of children:
  - at 12 months of age (between 9-18 months)
  - at 24 months of age (between 18-26 months)
  - any child 27 months and up to 72 months of age if the child has never previously been screened
  - any child 6 months to 72 months wherein the risk assessment indicates a new exposure since the last time the child was screenedCapillary blood samples are acceptable for screening, venous blood samples are preferred.
4. For each child who has a capillary blood lead test result greater than or equal to five micrograms per deciliter:
  - notify in writing the parent or legal guardian of the result and its significance in plain language, and the need for a venous confirmatory test.
5. For each child who has a venous blood sample that is greater than or equal to five micrograms per deciliter:
  - notify in writing the parent or legal guardian of the result and its significance in plain language; and,
  - provide risk reduction education, nutritional counseling, follow-up blood lead testing, diagnostic evaluation, screening of siblings or other members of the same household 6 months and up to 72 months of age if not screened previously or at high-risk, and medical treatment.