PREVENTING LEAD EXPOSURE

In accordance with current federal regulations, THSteps requires blood lead screening at ages notated on the THSteps Periodicity Schedule and must be performed during the medical checkup. Environmental lead risk assessments, as part of anticipatory guidance, should be completed at all checkups through age 6 when testing is not mandated, and may be performed using the Lead Risk Questionnaire, Form Pb-110, which is provided in both English and Spanish at www.dshs.texas.gov/thsteps/forms.shtm.
Providers may also opt to use an equivalent form of their choice.

The initial lead testing may be performed using a venous or capillary specimen, and must either be sent to the DSHS Laboratory or performed in the provider's office using point-of-care testing. If the client has an elevated blood lead level of 5 mcg/dL or greater, the provider must perform a confirmatory test using a venous specimen. The confirmatory specimen may be sent to the DSHS Laboratory, or the client or specimen may be sent to a laboratory of the provider's choice.

All blood lead levels in clients who are 14 years of age or younger must be reported to DSHS Texas Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (TXCLPPP). Reports should include all information as required on the Child Blood Lead Reporting, Form F09-11709 or the Point-of-Care Blood Lead Testing report Form Pb-111, which can be found at www.dshs.texas.gov/lead/providers.shtm or by calling 1-800-588-1248.

Information related to blood lead screening and reporting for clients who are 15 years of age or older is available on the DSHS Blood Lead Surveillance Group's website at www.dshs.texas.gov/lead/providers.shtm.

For information on what Providers need to know to screen, test, and retest children; properly collect blood specimens; use the mandatory reporting system; and protect Texas children from being exposed to lead in the first place, please access a short online course at http://www.txhealthsteps.com/static/courses/preventing-lead-exposure/lead-qc-1.html.

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