

Merlin disease code: 94890 Lead Poisoning

No paper case report form

No Merlin extended data

Background

Lead poisoning is often asymptomatic, but may result in impaired neurobehavioral development, low IQ, slow nerve conduction, peripheral neuropathies, and encephalopathy.

Clinical criteria for case classification

Not applicable.

Laboratory criteria for case classification

Confirmatory:

Either of the following:

- Blood lead level ≥ 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ measured from a venous specimen
- **Or** blood lead level ≥ 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ measured from **two** capillary specimens, unknown specimens (i.e., venous or capillary), or a combination of capillary and unknown specimens taken **within 12 weeks** of one another.

Supportive:

Blood lead level ≥ 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ measured from a single capillary specimen or unknown specimen (i.e., venous or capillary).

Epidemiological criteria for case classification

Not applicable.

Case classification

Confirmed:

A person with confirmatory laboratory criteria.

Suspect:

A person with supportive laboratory criteria.

Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

Only one case should be created for any person tested, regardless of the number of results received or the blood lead level. All additional results received for that person will be associated with that case.

Comments

All blood level lead tests are reportable in Florida. **Note that cases with blood lead levels ≥ 5 and < 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ will be automatically created and reported as lead poisoning cases in Merlin. No follow-up is required on**

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these cases and no extended data will be required. Screening results <5 µg/dL will be maintained in Merlin and a case will be created with a dx status of “not a case” for each person.

The Childhood Lead Poisoning Screening and Case Management Guide is a resource available for CHD disease investigators and health care providers. It contains additional information on disease investigation, lead poisoning testing, case management, and requirements for environmental investigations. This guide can be found at the following link: www.floridahealth.gov/healthy-environments/lead-poisoning/_documents/childhood-leadpoisoning-screening-casemanagement-guide.pdf.