

Laboratory Requirements for Reporting the Results of Blood Lead Tests

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Are all blood lead test results reportable to the Florida Department of Health, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program?

ANSWER: Yes, ALL blood lead tests are considered evidence of a suspect case of lead poisoning; therefore all blood lead test results must be reported. This is a new requirement as of November 20, 2006 under 64D-3, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C). This new rule requires all blood lead tests to be reported to the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Community Environmental Health, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP), 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A08, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1712, by the end of the next business day following the laboratory test results. All reports must be received in an approved electronic format.

2. What is the timeframe for reporting blood lead test results?

ANSWER: All blood lead tests must be reported to the Florida Department of Health, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program by the end of the next business day following the laboratory test findings.

3. What information must be reported by laboratories with blood lead test results?

ANSWER: To allow follow-up of laboratory findings suggestive of or diagnostic of diseases or conditions, all laboratories processing blood lead tests must report the following information to the CLPPP:

(a) The Patient's:

1. first and last name, including middle initial
2. address, including city, state and zip code
3. phone number, including area code
4. date of birth
5. sex
6. race
7. ethnicity (specify if of Hispanic descent or not of Hispanic descent)
8. pregnancy status
9. Social Security number

(b) The Laboratory's:

1. name
2. address
3. telephone number of laboratory performing blood lead test
4. type of specimen (for example, venous vs. capillary specimen)
5. date of specimen collection
6. date of report

7. type of test(s) performed
 8. all available results
- (c) The Submitting Provider's:
1. name
 2. address
 3. telephone number, including area code

4. How should laboratories report blood lead test results?

ANSWER: Under these new regulations all reports must be received by the Florida Department of Health in an approved electronic file format.

However, if electronic reporting is currently not available then results may be submitted in an approved alternate format and supplied in a manner that complies with all pertinent Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements. For more information on electronic reporting or to discuss other possible methods for reporting please contact Curt Miller by telephone (850) 245-4444 x2222 or email at Curt_Miller@doh.state.fl.us.

5. Our lab processes very few blood lead tests, are we required to report?

ANSWER: Yes. All blood lead test results are considered evidence of a suspect case of lead poisoning, therefore all blood lead test results must be reported.

6. What information are practitioners required to supply laboratories?

ANSWER: A practitioner who first authorizes, orders, requests or submits a specimen to a licensed laboratory for blood lead testing is responsible for obtaining and providing the following information to laboratories as per Chapter 64D-3.030, F.A.C.

- (a) The Patient's
 1. first and last name, including middle initial
 2. address, including city, state and zip code
 3. telephone number, including area code
 4. date of birth
 5. sex
 6. race
 7. ethnicity (specify if of Hispanic descent or not of Hispanic descent)
 8. pregnancy status
 9. Social Security number
- (b) Type of diagnostic test(s)
- (c) Type of specimen (for example, venous vs. capillary specimen)
- (d) Date of specimen collection
- (e) Diagnostic test results (for example, blood lead level)
- (f) Name, address and telephone number of the attending practitioner

7. What actions can be taken by Laboratories if practitioners are not providing required information?

ANSWER: If practitioners are not providing laboratories with required information then the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program recommends that laboratories provide practitioners with a copy of "Practitioner Packet." This particular document outlines practitioner reporting requirements. The document is located at the following website http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/topics/surv.htm. If persistent reporting problems by practitioners continue please notify the Florida's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program by calling (850)245-4444 ext.2222

8. Our facility conducts blood lead analysis using the Lead Care Analyzer device. What are our reporting requirements?

ANSWER: Practitioners who use the lead care analyzer act in the capacity of a laboratory, by performing blood lead analysis. Therefore they must comply with both practitioner and laboratory reporting requirements under 64D-3, F.A.C. These practitioners should note that they are required to report the results of all blood lead tests electronically by the end of the next business day to the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Community Environmental Health, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A08, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1712, (850) 245-4277. In addition, they must are also required to report lead poisoning cases (blood lead results of 10 micrograms per deciliter or greater) to the local county health department.