

**LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM  
NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

September 2003

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF PEDIATRIC HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**

- **ANTICIPATORY GUIDANCE** Provide information for parents/guardians of every child from six months to six years of age, at least annually, on practical ways to prevent or reduce exposure to lead. (See Fact Sheet #3 – Anticipatory Guidance)
  - **RISK ASSESSMENT** Assess the risk of lead exposure for every child six months to six years of age, at least annually, by administering a risk assessment questionnaire. (See Fact Sheet #3 for a questionnaire that can be copied and placed in each child's medical record.)
  - **TESTING**
    - Administer a blood lead test (or refer for testing) every child found, through risk assessment, to be at risk for lead exposure.
    - **TEST EVERY CHILD FOR LEAD POISONING AT HIS/HER FIRST AND SECOND BIRTHDAY, REGARDLESS OF THE RESULTS OF THE RISK ASSESSMENT.** For children enrolled in Medicaid, federal regulations also require testing any child from 36 to 72 months of age who has not been previously tested.
  - **REPORTING** Report all blood lead levels  $\geq 10$   $\mu\text{g/dL}$  to the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene within 24 hours. (Providers using portable blood lead analyzers must report ALL test results.)
- To report blood lead levels  $\geq 10$   $\mu\text{g/dL}$**   
**Call 212-676-6158 during business hours.**  
**Call (212)-POISONS (212-764-7667) at all other times.**
- **MEDICAL MANAGEMENT** Provide appropriate medical management (including follow-up blood lead testing, developmental surveillance and risk reduction education) for children found to have blood lead levels  $\geq 10$   $\mu\text{g/dL}$ . (See Fact Sheet #4 and #5 for medical management guidelines.)

**FACTS ABOUT LEAD SCREENING IN NYC**

*Good News: 86% of children are tested at least once by age 3.*

*Bad News: only 31% of children are tested at both 1 and 2 years of age.*