

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Senior Deputy Director/Medicaid Director

Transmittal # 15-42

TO: DC Medicaid Pediatric Providers

FROM: Claudia Schlosberg, J.D. 
Senior Deputy Director and State Medicaid Director

DATE: October 29, 2015

SUBJECT: DHCF and DOEE Joint Letter Regarding Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

The Department of Health Care Finance and the Department of Energy and Environment jointly issue the attached letter on blood lead screening requirements in the District of Columbia. Please share with your staff and colleagues.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Colleen Sonosky, Associate Director of DHCF's Division of Children's Health Services on (202) 442-5913 or Pierre Erville, Associate Director of DDOE's Division of Lead-Safe and Healthy Housing on (202) 535-2505.

Attachment

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



October 2015

**TO ALL PEDIATRICIANS, FAMILY PRACTITIONERS, HEALTH CLINICS AND
MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS SERVING DC MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES**

Dear Healthcare Provider,

The Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) and the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) collaborate to monitor and improve children's health in the District of Columbia, particularly when it comes to childhood lead poisoning. In keeping with the theme of this year's National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (October 25-31, 2015), *Lead-Free Kids for a Healthy Future*, we are writing to remind you of your legal obligation to conduct lead screenings for all children who are residents of the District, twice by the time they are two years old.

Per D.C. Code § 7-871.03, health care providers and health care facilities are required to perform, as part of a well-child care visit, a blood test for lead poisoning on every child who resides in the District of Columbia -- once between ages 6 months and 14 months, and a second time between ages 22 months and 26 months. This requirement is applicable unless parental consent is withheld or an identical test has already been performed within the previous 12 months. If a child's age exceeds 26 months and a blood lead screening has not yet been performed, the child must be screened twice prior to the age of 6 years.

In addition to performing a blood test for lead poisoning, the District requires that all blood lead results be reported to the District's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP), located at DOEE. In the event a child is identified with a blood lead level equal to or greater than 5 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood, the District can take quick steps to mitigate risks for the family. Accordingly, prompt reporting of all blood lead level results to the CLPPP is critical.

As the child's doctor or health care provider, you have an important responsibility to provide guidance on lead poisoning prevention, risk reduction, nutritional counseling and other anticipatory guidance to the parent or caregiver of a child under six years old, as part of routine care. For a full list of recommendations, visit DOEE's website:
<http://green.dc.gov/node/613342>.

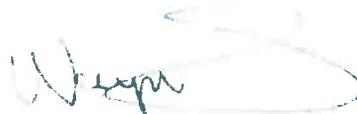
For additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Colleen Sonosky, Associate Director of DHCF's Division of Children's Health Services, at (202) 442-5913, or Pierre Erville, Associate Director of DOEE's Division of Lead-Safe and Healthy Housing, at (202) 535-2505.

Thank you for all that you do to protect children's health in our nation's capital.

Sincerely,



Tommy Wells, Director
Department of Energy and Environment



Wayne Turnage, Director
Department of Health Care Finance