

PHYSICIAN TALKING POINTS



Pre-testing

- Lead poisoning is a common but preventable cause of learning disabilities and behavioral problems in children
- No blood lead concentration in children is considered “safe”
- Ohio law requires blood lead testing at 12 and 24 months of age for children insured by Medicaid or who live in a high-risk zip code
- Only 50% of high-risk children are being tested
- There are state and local resources to help families deal with a lead-poisoned child
- Children with iron deficiency absorb lead more easily than children with normal iron

Post-testing

- Across the United States, the mean blood lead concentration of children <6 years old is approximately 1 µg/dL
- Children with elevated blood lead levels will need appropriate follow-up through their local health department and their pediatrician’s office
- The neurodevelopmental effects of lead poisoning cannot be reversed, but the CDC recommends supporting neurodevelopment with early intervention programs, a stimulating home environment and a good diet
- Minimizing how long lead levels are high is beneficial

Office flow-chart

