



NEW YORK STATE REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR LEAD POISONING PREVENTION

Guidelines on the Identification and
Management of Lead Exposure in Children



THE PROGRAM ADDRESSES ALL ASPECTS OF LEAD POISONING: MEDICAL TREATMENT, TEMPORARY LEAD-SAFE HOUSING, ADVOCACY, EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH AND PARENTAL COUNSELING.



THE OLDEST LEAD POISONING TREATMENT AND PREVENTION PROGRAM IN THE NATION

The Lead Poisoning Prevention and Treatment Program at Children's Hospital at Montefiore is the oldest and most comprehensive of its kind in the country.

With its roots in the work and vision of John F. Rosen, MD, a pediatrician and researcher who began his career at Montefiore in 1969, the program today boasts a distinguished team of multidisciplinary professionals in medicine, research, social services, environmental investigation and public advocacy. In 1991, the original, landmark, residential Safe House was opened. Named a New York State Regional Resource Center for Lead Poisoning Prevention in 1993, the Montefiore program rapidly became a national model. Its widely-published lead research helps keep the program on the cutting edge.

NAMED A NEW YORK STATE REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR LEAD POISONING PREVENTION IN 1993, THE MONTEFIORE PROGRAM RAPIDLY BECAME A NATIONAL MODEL.

Using a multiservice approach, all aspects of lead poisoning are addressed: medical treatment, temporary lead-safe housing, advocacy, educational outreach and parental counseling. In 1994, through a generous gift from the City of New York, a larger Safe House was purchased and renovated to make six lead-free apartments to accommodate families while their primary residences are undergoing abatement. The program offices reside in a connected adjacent building.

The early clinic-based program was quickly expanded to include ambitious education and environmental initiatives. The program staff now give workshops in schools, Head Start facilities, day care centers, health fairs and other community gathering places. They also coordinate with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the New York City Department of Housing to ensure that all legal restrictions for household lead are met during repair and cleanup work in the homes of their lead-poisoned patients.

AVAILABLE SERVICES

- Safe House residential facility for temporary transitional housing while primary residence is being made lead safe
- Lead poisoning treatment and management including in-hospital chelation therapy according to the degree of lead poisoning
- In-hospital laboratory for rapid blood lead analysis and screening*
- Patient services
- Weekly lead clinic (blood leads >5 µg/dL)
- Workshops and community outreach
- Informational services and resources
- Events and conferences
- Assistance with housing and lead abatement issues
- Parent counseling
- Patient advocacy
- Access to government regulations
- Access to up-to-date research, data and statistics
- Screening protocols
- Management plans
- Guidance for setting up a lead program/clinic
- Referrals to education, psychology and development services

LEAD POISONING
HARMS MORE CHILDREN
THAN ANY OTHER
ENVIRONMENTAL
DISEASE. YET, BY
TAKING THE PROPER
PRECAUTIONS,
LEAD POISONING IS
100%
PREVENTABLE.

LEAD POISONING RISK ASSESSMENT REQUIRED FOR BABIES

Pediatricians are required by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to carry out a risk assessment beginning when an infant is six months old.

A risk assessment entails obtaining information from the parents such as:

- Does anyone in the home environment work with lead outside the home or have a hobby that utilizes lead?
- Does the child live in or regularly visit a home built before 1960 or another site that is now being renovated?
- Does the child eat non-food items such as paint chips, crushed pottery or soil?
- Does the child have any evidence of developmental delays?
- Has the family recently moved from a foreign country to live in the United States?
- Is there any history of an elevated lead level in any other child within the family?
- Is there any peeling paint in the home environment or at any site that a child visits?

If the answer to any of these questions is “yes,” a child is considered to be at HIGH RISK for lead poisoning, and a blood lead test must be carried out promptly.

This type of risk assessment is mandated by the DOHMH and the NYSDOH to be carried out at every pediatric visit until a child reaches 72 months of age.

*The lab processes about 40,000 samples annually by graphite furnace atomic absorption spectroscopy. It participates successfully in the New York State and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) proficiency testing programs.

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION GUIDANCE FOR PEDIATRICIANS

- All children, regardless of risk category, are required by the DOHMH and the NYSDOH to have blood lead tests at 12 and 24 months of age.
- The medical management and follow-up of blood lead levels is detailed by the CDC (2002, 2007) as well as the DOHMH and the NYSDOH.
- Close medical follow-up of iron deficiency (if present) and follow-up of blood lead levels are of primary importance. Next, the most critical aspect of the medical management of an individual child is to promptly identify the source of excessive lead exposure and remove this source collaboratively.
- A pediatrician can readily ascertain the date that a family's home was built by inserting a home address into a web search engine.

If a pediatrician wants advice in the management of a lead-poisoned child, New York State–funded Resource Centers at academic centers are available for consultation. Contact us:

MORRI MARKOWITZ, MD

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Metropolitan New York Center
Children's Hospital at Montefiore
mmarkowi@montefiore.org

H. WEINBERGER, MD

Director, Upstate Resource Center
weinberh@upstate.edu

M. CAMERON, MD

Director, Western Resource Center
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A pediatrician is also responsible for educating the parents of a child with lead poisoning relating to: coordinating care with local DOH lead programs, particularly related to source identification; teaching parents about sources of lead and obtaining a detailed environmental and behavioral history; teaching parents about possible later outcomes of current lead poisoning, as noted in the “Basic Facts” section; and providing nutritional advice about adequate dietary intakes of iron and calcium.

It is NYSDOH policy for pregnant women to undergo a similar type of risk assessment. An increasing number of pregnant women are likely to be identified under these New York State policies. As a result, because lead readily crosses the placenta, pediatricians are likely to be asked with increasing frequency to manage newborns who have elevated blood lead levels. If management advice is indicated, the NYS Resource Centers (mentioned above) can be called upon to provide information and assistance in the medical management of newborns who have elevated blood lead levels.

COMMUNITY-BASED RESOURCES FOR LEAD POISONING PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

As a New York State Regional Resource Center for Lead Poisoning Prevention, we provide a range of medical, educational and advocacy services to the New York downstate region. The critical aspect of treatment is to promptly identify the source of excessive lead exposure and remove this source collaboratively. The Safe House for Lead Poisoning Prevention, located in the Bronx, provides temporary housing while a family's residence is being made lead safe.

THE CRITICAL ASPECT OF LEAD TREATMENT IS TO PROMPTLY IDENTIFY THE SOURCE OF EXCESSIVE LEAD EXPOSURE AND REMOVE THIS SOURCE COLLABORATIVELY.



LEARN MORE



For more information or to schedule an appointment, call **718-547-2789** or email **leadprogram@montefiore.org**.

Discover more about The Lead Poisoning Prevention and Treatment Program at **cham.org/leadprogram**.

LOCATION

The Safe House for Lead Poisoning Prevention

91 East Mosholu Parkway North
Bronx, New York 10467

MAILING ADDRESS

The Safe House for Lead Poisoning Prevention

Children's Hospital at Montefiore
3415 Bainbridge Avenue
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