

MEMO

Issued: 8/24/2020

To: All Medical Providers, Clinics, and Laboratories Involved in Blood Lead Testing and Reporting in Iowa

This letter is written to provide a summary of the requirements of the Iowa Department of Public Health outlined in “Chapter 1 Reportable Diseases, Poisonings and Conditions, and Quarantine and Isolation”, Iowa Administrative Code as applied to blood lead testing and reporting. This letter is being provided to all medical providers, clinics, and laboratories that have involvement in collecting, analyzing, and reporting results from blood lead tests in Iowa. This letter will provide you with a summary of the information that the Iowa Department of Public Health requires and needs to be submitted with each blood lead test result, and information on how to and when to submit blood lead test results.

The Iowa Department of Public Health is tasked with the management of all blood lead testing data and coordinating the management of individuals who are lead poisoned throughout Iowa. The Iowa Department of Public Health is currently receiving over 70,000 blood- lead test results each year. The completeness, accuracy, and timeliness of these blood- lead test results will greatly help our work in reducing and preventing lead poisoning in Iowa.

Who Is Required to Report Blood Lead Test Results?

Let’s first look at the portion of the Administrative Code of the Iowa Department of Public Health that indicates who is required to report blood lead test results. According to 641—1.6(1)(a) (135,139A), Iowa Administrative Code:

“Health care providers, hospitals, and clinical laboratories and other health care facilities are required to report cases of reportable poisonings and conditions. Health care providers are exempted from reporting blood lead testing if the laboratory performing the analysis provides the report containing the required information to the department.”

“Hospitals, health care providers and clinical laboratories outside the state of Iowa shall immediately report any confirmed or suspected case of a reportable poisoning or condition in an Iowa resident.”

What Is Required to be Reported?

In addition to the actual blood-lead test result, the Iowa Department of Public Health requires, in the Iowa Administrative Code, additional information to be included with each blood lead result. The following is a list of specific information that is required and needed to be submitted with each blood lead test result according to 641—1.6(2) (135,139A), Iowa Administrative Code:

- The patient's name.
- The patient's address.
- The patient's date of birth.
- The sex of the patient.
- If the patient is female, whether the patient is pregnant.
- The race and ethnicity of the patient.
- The patient's marital status.
- The patient's telephone number.
- The collection date.
- The analytical result.
- Whether the sample is a capillary or venous blood sample.
- The name and address of the health care provider, who ordered or collected the blood lead sample and may have performed the test (as in a LeadCare® II machine or any other Point-of-Care instrument).
- The name and address of the laboratory, if the blood lead sample was sent to an analytical laboratory.
- In the case of lead testing due to occupational conditions, the name of the patient's employer.

Ensuring All Required Information is Reported

It is important that this entire list of patient information shown above is sent in to the Iowa Department of Public Health with each blood lead test result by the health care provider, or by the laboratory if they are the ones submitting the blood lead test result. The Iowa Department of Public Health does use all of this information in managing and evaluating blood-lead test results from patients throughout Iowa. If the laboratory is submitting the data to the Iowa Department of Public Health, it becomes imperative that the medical provider submit to the laboratory all the information listed above so the laboratory can then include this information along with the blood lead-test results to the Iowa Department of Public Health.

How and When to Report Blood Lead Test Results

According to 641—1.6(3)a (135,139A), Iowa Administrative Code, the method and time-frame for reporting blood lead test results is listed below:

- All analytical results greater than or equal to 20 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) in a child under the age of six years or a pregnant woman shall be reported to the department immediately by telephone at 1-800-972-2026.
- All analytical results shall be reported to the department at least weekly in an electronic format specified by the department.

The following are the current electronic formats allowed by the Iowa Department of Public Health for submitting blood-lead test data:

- LeadCare® II Software (XML file) - the LeadCare® II case management software produces and XML formatted file that imports easily and correctly into HHLPSS. This software is available through Magellan, the manufacturer of the LeadCare® II machine.
- Excel template file - IDPH's Information Management developed a protected Excel spreadsheet into which data can be entered and saved as a new file. This spreadsheet is sent out as an attachment to the weekly e-mail reminder to report lead test results.
- HL7 - The Department currently receives HL7 formatted files in versions 2.5.1 and 2.3.1. Any version prior to that will not import correctly.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter and your participation in blood lead testing and reporting. If you have any questions, please contact the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 1-800-972-2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carmily Stone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carmily" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Stone".

Carmily Stone
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