



Lead Screening Best Practices for Primary Care Providers

Following are some of the best practices that are helping providers to screen their patients timely:

1. Consider developing a “Standing Order for Lead Screening Protocol” with a nearby lab. Include a lead test reminder with lab name and address on your appointment confirmation/reminder cards.
2. Assign one person on your staff responsibility for developing and implementing an internal protocol to follow up on lead screenings. Include in the protocol to check the child’s record for a laboratory report of screening at all subsequent visits to ensure that previously ordered lead screenings have been completed. Use sick and well-child visits as opportunities to re-order or further encourage parents to have children tested for lead.
3. Assess the potential for lead exposure and determine high-risk status using the *Risk Assessment Questionnaire* found on the RI Department of Health Lead Screening and Referral Guidelines (<http://www.health.ri.gov/publications/brochures/provider/LeadScreeningAndReferralGuidelines.pdf>). You can give the *Risk Assessment Questionnaire for Lead Screening form* (available in English and Spanish by calling 401-222-5960) to parents with children 37 to 71 months of age. The parent can fill out the form while in your waiting room.
4. Encourage parents to have their child tested immediately after his/her visit to the doctor (Lack of immediate access to a laboratory or phlebotomist is often a barrier to screening).
5. Become a KIDSNET provider. Practices with access to the KIDSNET web application can run reports on children who need lead screening. Reports can be run by age or date of birth, or a report can be run on all unscreened children in the practice. Practice-specific reports of children due for lead screening can be generated at <https://kidsnet.health.ri.gov>.
6. Consider performing finger stick screenings in your practice.

Other resources:

For questions about lead and to order lead materials: HEALTH Information Line, 222-5960
KIDSNET: Janet Limoges at 222-7861, janet.limoges@health.ri.gov

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program's website www.health.ri.gov/lead