Submission Requirements

1. Blood lead screening is performed on whole blood venous or capillary specimens. Tubes should be filled as close to the fill-mark as possible without overfilling.
2. Clotted specimens cannot be analyzed – MIX WELL to allow anti-coagulant (EDTA) to work.
3. Venous samples are acceptable for screening and are required for follow-up samples on patients found to have elevated capillary lead levels.
4. Each sample must have a label with the patient name or a barcode label from the laboratory. The barcode label from SHL is in two parts. The portion with the number only is to be applied to the blood collection tube. The remaining portion of the barcode label is applied to the corresponding patient data form in the space provided. UNLABELLED SPECIMENS WILL NOT BE TESTED
5. A completed Blood Lead Test Request Form must accompany specimen.

Specimen Collection and Handling

Specimens are easily contaminated with lead, so certain precautions are required during the collection process for a valid result. The clinic area, and the collector’s clothes and gloves, must be as clean and dust free as possible.

Acceptable Collection Devices

1. Tubes with EDTA (lavender top).
2. Capillary collection containers such as CB-300, Multivette, or similar tubes are acceptable for screening only and must have a venous specimen submitted for confirmation of elevated levels. Follow manufacturer’s instructions for collection.
3. With each batch of samples submitted, one unused sampling container MUST be submitted as a quality control check for contamination.

Blood Collection

Wash child’s hand with warm water and soap. Gentle scrubbing will stimulate circulation to the fingers. Wrap hand in paper towel to prevent recontamination. Keep wrapped until you are ready for the finger stick.

Venous Blood Collection

1. Collect venous blood samples in a lavender top EDTA or pink top K2EDTA tube.
2. Mix the blood specimen thoroughly after collection
3. Transport at room temperature

Capillary (Finger stick) Blood Collection

1. Stick finger slightly lateral to the center of the fingertip. Wipe off the first drop of blood with gauze. Gently massage finger behind first knuckle and hold at first knuckle joint.
2. DO NOT MILK the BLOOD OUT. This can result in dilution of the blood and false negative results.
3. If a Hematocrit is needed, take it before massaging of finger for lead sample.
4. Blood should bead, if hand is low (below heart level, flow will be better).
5. Fill the container to the mark on the tube. DO NOT OVERFILL OR UNDERFILL. This could result in clotting of the sample and sample will be rejected.
Specimen Collection and Handling, continued

**Venous Sample Follow-Up**

1. Venous sampling is required when an initial finger stick sample is ≥ 15 µg /dL.
2. Use a Lavender top (EDTA) vacutainer or equivalent.
3. If your facility is not equipped to draw the venous sample and must be referred to another clinic, laboratory, or physician, please send the following with the patient:
   a. SHL Blood Lead Test Request Form (Data Form) with your facility’s bar code/information, complete except for date of collection.*
   b. Instructions for collection of blood for lead testing.
   c. Bar code labels for the sample tube and data form.
   d. Mailer.

* NOTE: If the laboratory or Doctor’s office uses their own data form the result will be sent to them. HIPAA requires that test results are provided only to the submitter listed on the data form, which could delay your receipt of the results.

**Test Request Form**

1. Complete **Blood Lead Test Request Form**, including all patient identifiers, by going online to:
2. Testing is dependent upon complete and accurate information; therefore, results may be delayed if information is not provided. Be sure to include;
   a. Specimen Type (Capillary or Venous), Collection Date
   b. Risk (if known)
   c. Medicare/Medicaid Number (if Title XIX or other applicable program)*
   d. Insurance Information (if applicable)
   e. Codes for IDPH or other programs put in the Medicare/Medicaid space.

*NOTE: If the patient is covered by Title XIX, the patient’s Medicaid number is required. If payment is denied for any reason, the charges will be invoiced to the submitting clinic*

**Shipping Instructions**

1. Include completed Blood Lead Test Request Form in outside pocket of biohazard bag.
2. Pack the specimen(s) in the small bag along with the absorbent pad. Place that bag with the specimen in the Styrofoam container and tape closed. Place the Styrofoam container and the Test Request Form(s) into the cardboard mailer and SEND TO IOWA LABORATORY COMPLEX IN ANKENY (See address in footer).
3. Do not batch samples longer than a few days and refrigerate specimens until you send them to SHL.
4. Results will be reported to the submitter only.
5. Ship multiple specimens in packaging compliant with USPS or IATA regulations.

**Contact Information**

For Blood Lead testing questions: (515) 725-1652 or (515) 725-1600 and ask for the Blood Lead Section

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* Revision 03/01/2015