



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410-3000

OFFICE OF LEAD HAZARD CONTROL

POLICY GUIDANCE NUMBER: 2000-04		DATE: August 22, 2000
SUBJECT:	Timely Provision of Blood Lead Testing For Children Less Than Six Years of Age	
STATUS:	Current	
APPLICABILITY:	All grant rounds	
RELATED GUIDANCES:	None	
COMMENTS:		

Dear Grantee:

This letter is to reiterate the Office of Lead Hazard Control requirement for the timely provision of blood lead testing for children less than six years of age occupying homes being treated under the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant Program.

It is required that hazard control grantees ensure that blood lead testing on children occur within six months of when work begins on the residence. Grantees should take into consideration that there may be some lag time between an applicant's enrollment and the commencement of lead hazard control work. In fact, to the extent possible, we would encourage that testing occur as close as possible to the commencement of work. Blood lead testing is essential for identifying children with elevated blood lead levels and ensuring that they receive appropriate medical care. A baseline blood lead test result may assist the grantee in evaluating the overall effectiveness of hazard control intervention applied to a unit. In addition blood testing may help resolve potential issues which may arise related to any post-intervention blood lead test results.

In most instances, blood lead testing will be conducted by the child's health care provider or by the public health department. However, if the child has not been tested, the grant program can arrange and pay for such testing as an eligible grant program service. In those cases where the family refuses to have their children tested for religious or other reasons, the family must sign a statement that they have chosen not to have the blood lead test performed (see attached sample form and release). The blood lead level testing requirement is not a factor to be used in determining eligibility for lead hazard control work in units.

Thank you for your cooperation. Any questions on this matter should be directed to your Government Technical Representative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ellis G. Goldman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Ellis G. Goldman, Director
Program Management Division

SAMPLE

Hazard Control Blood Testing Release Form

It is recommended that all children under six years of age have their blood lead level tested prior to hazard control work in your home. If your children have not received a blood test in the past three **(3) months**, you should contact your child's primary health care provider or the local health department to arrange for a test.

Please check one of the following - the one which best describes your children:

_____ My children under six **have** had their blood lead levels tested in the past three **(3) months**. Please identify test provider and date of test. _____

_____ I hereby authorize the provider to release the results of this (these) blood test(s) to the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant Program.

_____ My children under six **have not** had their blood lead levels tested in the past three **(3) months and I agree to have them tested at this time.**

_____ For religious and/or personal reasons, I choose **not to have** my child (children's) tested for lead.

I/We voluntarily disclose this information. I/We understand that disclosure of this information is not required for participation in the _____ Program.

Parent's or Guardian's Signature

Date

NOTE: The use of a three (3) month time reference in this sample form assumes that it may take an additional two-three months from the time the owner applies for the program to the time that hazard control commences on a child's home. Thus the overall period between blood testing and hazard control would not exceed six (6) months.