



## Screen your pregnant patients for **Pb**



### Follow the Illinois Department of Public Health *Guidelines for Prenatal-risk Evaluation for Lead Exposure*

#### A “yes” response to any *one* of these 11 screening questions should trigger a blood lead level:

1. Do you live in a house built before 1978?
2. Do you live in a house built before 1978 with ongoing renovations that generate dust from sanding and scraping?
3. Have you ever had an elevated blood lead level?
4. Do you live with someone who has an elevated blood lead level?
5. Do you crave or have you eaten a non-food item during this pregnancy?
6. Do you have or have you had any oral piercings?
7. Do you use any imported cosmetics, herbal remedies, or food products?
8. Do you use pottery, painted china, leaded glass or other products that were made in another country?
9. Do you or others in your household have an occupation, hobby or activity which may expose you or them to lead?
10. Were you born, or have you spent any time outside of the United States?
11. Are you eligible/enrolled in Women’s, Infants and Children (WIC) Program or Medicaid?

#### Why screen for lead?

- Lead crosses the placenta in a 1:1 ratio.
- Maternal blood lead even at 5 µg/dL can affect fetal growth and neurodevelopment.
- Recent NHANES estimates suggest that almost 1% of women of childbearing age (15-49 years) have blood lead levels greater than or equal to 5 µg/dl (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2008, unpublished data)
- Lead can be found in imported spices, makeup, pottery, jewelry and home remedies.
- Home rehab in older homes to prepare for baby can disturb lead paint.
- Women with pica may ingest lead in soil or pottery.

#### How high is high?

The prenatal and preconception *Action Level* for blood lead is the same as for children: 5µg/dl.

#### Management of elevated levels

- Provide adequate calcium, vitamin C, and iron to lower absorption of lead
- Recommendations for management of elevated prenatal blood lead levels are included in the IDPH *Guidelines for Prenatal-risk Evaluation for Lead Exposure*. *Click this link:*  
<http://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/forms/prenatal-risk-evaluationfor-lead-exposure-and-guidelines-042116.pdf>
- Contact: Region 5 Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU):  
Phone: (866)-967-7337; Email: [ChildrensEnviro@uic.edu](mailto:ChildrensEnviro@uic.edu)  
Website: <http://publichealth.uic.edu/great-lakes/childrens-health>



**The Kane County Healthy Places Coalition recognizes all the obstetric providers that incorporate the lead risk assessment and indicated lead testing in their prenatal care plans!**