

# Testing Notification

May 2017

## Important Information for Providers

### CDC Advisory on Lead Testing and Venous Blood Samples

On May 17 Allina Health Laboratory was notified by the CDC to discontinue lead testing on venous samples using a Magellan LeadCare™ analyzer. According to the CDC advisory “Magellan lead tests, when performed on blood drawn from a vein, may provide results that are lower than the actual level of lead in the blood”. This analyzer is used at Allina as well as most other local healthcare systems which are also affected.

The CDC and FDA are concerned by this situation. Their recommendations are to retest these patient groups:

- **children < 6 years of age as of May 17, 2017**
- **currently pregnant or lactating women**

IF they meet the following criteria:

- **The most recent lead test was conducted using blood drawn from a vein.**
- **Lead test results were < 10 µg/dL.**

Most lead testing is performed on capillary specimens which are not of concern. Venous collections are performed on children with elevated capillary test results and routinely on adults and account for about 15% of tests in our laboratory. Due to the potential volume of retesting across the local community we will be working closely with MDH and system leadership to develop a retesting plan. We will continue to keep you informed as we learn more from MDH.

#### Effective immediately:

- There is no change in the process for capillary blood lead testing, but a different order is now required for venous specimens:
  - **Lead, venous blood (LAB994) Send to Mayo**
  - The Mayo test method is not affected by the CDC advisory.
- An alternate alert has been created, see screenshot next page.

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Alternative Selection

**LEAD BLOOD: Expected-5/18/2017, Expires-8/16/2017, Routine, Normal, Capillary**

This order is for CAPILLARY (finger or heel stick) specimens ONLY. The capillary specimen must be collected directly from the skin puncture site into the lavender Microtainer device.

ALL VENOUS AND OTHER BLOOD SPECIMENS: Must use the alternative Miscellaneous Sendout Test below. Collect in a Royal Blue EDTA Lead-Free collection tube. In rare instances where only a small amount of venous blood is obtained (infant), blood can be placed in a separate lavender Microtainer which must be labeled as a venous specimen.

**Web Links**

[No additional information.](#)

Alternative

Details

Cost

LEAD, BLOOD - send to Mayo (PBDB)

This alternate alert now appears for the routine Lead test order to ensure proper collection and routing of venous specimens.