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Public Hearing

WAC 246-101-010, Definitions

Washington State Board of Health
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Purpose for Updating Notifiable Conditions Rule

- Adopt national standards for elevated blood lead levels
- Rule “housekeeping”

Current Rule

- Definition of elevated blood lead level
 - Equal to or greater than 10 mcg/dL for children less than 15 years
 - Equal to or greater than 25 mcg/dL for adults 15 years or older
- Reporting requirements
 - Elevated cases (children and adults): 2 business days
 - Non-elevated cases: 30 days

Changes at the National Level

- **Adult Definition**: In 2009 the Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologists recommended the change to 10 mcg/dL and CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health adopted the recommendation.
- **Child Definition**: In 2012 the Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention recommended the change to 5 mcg/dL and the CDC Childhood Lead Program adopted the recommendation.

Draft Rule

- Definition of elevated blood lead level consistent with national standards:
 - Equal to or greater than 5 mcg/dL for children less than 15 years
 - Equal to or greater than 10 mcg/dL for adults 15 years or older
- Reporting requirements remain the same
- Definition of laboratory: Reference chapter 246-338 WAC, Medical Test Site Rules
- Definition of health care facility: Consistent with SHB 2056, Chapter 10 Laws of 2012

Impacts of the Draft Rule: Laboratories

- Laboratories* will be required to report to the Department of Health more tests in the 2 business day timeframe as opposed to the 30 day timeframe
 - This includes all childhood results between 5 and 9.9 mcg/dL and all adult results between 10 and 24.9 mcg/dL

*Laboratories include CLIA certified laboratories and any providers office, head start program, or other entity using a point of care lead screening device.

Impacts of the Draft Rule: Local Health Jurisdictions

- Department of Health will notify local health jurisdictions (LHJs) more quickly with results between 5 and 9.9 mcg/dL
- LHJs that investigate 5 to 9.9 mcg/dL results will be able to initiate investigations more quickly
 - Clark, Grant, Island, King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties already investigate this level
- The draft rule will not require any LHJ to investigate any case of elevated blood lead

Public Comments

- We received public comment from one individual:
 - Use 5 mcg/dL for adults in the definition of “elevated blood lead level”
 - Follow CDC guidelines recommending action for pregnant and lactating women at a level of 5 mcg/dL and higher

Agency Recommendation

- Adopt the rule as proposed
 - For the definition of “elevated blood lead level,” we consider the Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologists and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health recommendations of 10 mcg/dL for adults appropriate
 - Although CDC guidelines consider 5 mcg/dL elevated for pregnant women, these guidelines recommend action by the health care provider at this level. The guidelines recommend health department involvement at 10 mcg/dL, which is consistent with the proposed rule

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Questions?

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