



PLANNING DISTRICT XV

IN COOPERATION WITH THE
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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RICHMOND CITY HEALTH DISTRICT
400 East Cary Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

"Working Together for a Healthier Richmond"

May 28, 2013

RE: Childhood Blood Lead Level 5ug/dl – 9ug/dl Outreach from Richmond City Health District

Dear Colleagues,

Many of you are aware that last year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) changed their reference level for elevated blood lead levels (BLLs) to 5ug/dl in an effort to shift the focus to primary prevention of lead exposure. The CDC further recommends that the physicians of children with a BLL > 5ug/dl take all necessary steps to monitor and educate patients and their families on lead poisoning prevention, including a recommendation for a home inspection for the presence of lead.

I have spoken with many of you in the last year, who have wondered whether you should now be referring all patients with a blood lead level > 5ug/dl to the Richmond City Health District (RCHD). Though the CDC has changed their threshold for recommended action, our state statutes (12VAC5-120-20 and -30) have not changed, and continue to support an action level of 10ug/dl or greater.

While our resources may not allow us to conduct comprehensive lead assessments for all patients with BLLs between 5ug/dl and 9ug/dl, we are committed to supporting your efforts to prevent childhood lead poisoning in Richmond City. With an active referral, the RCHD Lead-Safe and Healthy Homes Initiative (LSHHI) will provide the following at no cost to you or the patient:

- A home visit which includes an Environmental Lead Screening (does not include dust, water and soil sampling)
- Preventive education for the patient
- Educational resources to your office

In addition, our LSHHI staff are able to conduct a Healthy Homes Assessment which provides an opportunity to evaluate aspects the home environment that may cause injuries or exacerbate existing conditions such as asthma and allergies (see enclosed brochure for more details). This could serve to reinforce the anticipatory guidance you are providing in your offices, and to identify environmental concerns contributing to injury and illness.

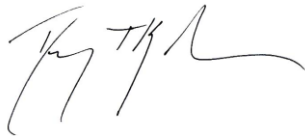
It is critical to understand that BLLs between 5ug/dl and 9ug/dl will not trigger an automatic follow-up by RCHD, as we are not notified of lead levels below 10ug/dl. The educational and support services we provide will require an active referral by completing the attached form and faxing it.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Dona Huang, LSHHI Program Supervisor, at (804) 205-3726 or e-mail at dona.huang@vdh.virginia.gov.

Please share this letter with other physicians in your practice.

Thank you all for your tireless efforts to improve the health of the children of this community.

Sincerely,



Danny TK Avula MD, MPH
Deputy Director
Richmond City Health District

Enclosures

cc: Dona Huang