



AT THE FOREFRONT

UChicago
Medicine

DATE: April 14th, 2022
TO: UCM Medical Staff, Housestaff, Nursing Staff, Patient Care Centers, and Outpatient Clinics
FROM: KT Jerry Yeo, PhD, DABCC, FAACC, Medical Director, Clinical Chemistry Laboratories
RE: Blood Lead (Pb) Changes

Recently the CDC recommended lowering blood lead reference value (BLRV) to **<3.5 mcg/dL** for children ages 1-5 years (<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/prevention/blood-lead-levels.htm>). Since our current analyzer is not sufficiently sensitive at these lower values, we will have to temporarily send out blood lead samples while we develop and validate an in-house method using the state-of-the-art Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer (ICP-MS) analyzer. Once our ICP-MS method is fully validated in the near future, we will start offering this test in-house.

Effective **April 19, 2022** we will be sending out all blood lead samples to Mayo Medical Labs. The new orderable test codes are: PBDVS for venous bloods and PBDCS for capillary bloods.

The Pb reference values are as shown below:

0-5 years: <3.5 mcg/dL

= or >6 years: <5.0 mcg/dL

Please note that capillary blood Pb >4.9 mcg/dL may be due to contamination from the finger surface and should be confirmed with retesting using a venous blood. If you have any question, please contact me at jyeo@bsd.uchicago.edu