

Lead Letter to Providers

Dear Provider:

Puget Sound Educational Service District has received a Federal Information Memorandum informing us that all children enrolled in Early Head Start/Head Start are required to have a blood lead test. This mandate has come from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the National Office of Head Start. The Office of Head Start requires all children to be up-to-date on a schedule of age appropriate preventative health care. This schedule must include all the requirements for well child care utilized by the State's Medicaid EPSDT program.

- The EPSDT program requires a screening blood lead test be performed to determine the blood lead level for all Medicaid eligible children at 12 and 24 months of age.
- Children between the ages of 36 and 72 months of age must receive a screening blood lead test if they have not been previously screened for lead poisoning.
- The Office of Head Start requires **written documentation** from the child's medical provider that the child received a blood lead test at ages 12 months and 24 months.
- If there is no **written documentation** that the child received a blood lead test, it is required by the Centers for Medicaid Services that the child receives a screening blood lead test between the ages of 36 and 72 months.
- The Office of Head Start also requires that a child be screened for anemia between the ages of two to five.
- If there is no **written documentation** that the child has been screened, it is required that the child receives this screening at his/her current well child exam.
- Our Head Start program works in partnership with parents to make sure every enrolled child receives these screenings.
- If the family decides not to have the screenings, please have them contact their Head Start Center.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call or email at the contact information listed below. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Cheryl Polasek, RD, CD

Program Manager-Health, Nutrition & Safety

Puget Sound ESD, Early Learning Programs

cpolasek@psed.org

425-917-7883

253-778-7883