



NEW LEAD POISONING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Arizona Administrative Code

Title 9. Health Services

Chapter 4. Department of Health Services

Noncommunicable Diseases

Article 3. Blood Lead Levels R9-4-301, R9-4-302

Why Did the Lead Poisoning Reporting Rule Change?

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) changed the reporting rule on December 12, 2000. The changes improve the ADHS' ability to characterize disease patterns statewide, and to serve patients and reporting entities.

What Are the New Reporting Rule Requirements?

- ✓ Clinical laboratory directors must report all blood lead test results to the ADHS.
- ✓ Physicians must report all elevated blood lead levels of ≥ 10 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) for children and ≥ 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ for adults.
- ✓ All reports must include specific information on patient demographics, the laboratory that ran the test, and the ordering physicians.
- ✓ Reports of severe blood lead levels, specifically ≥ 45 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ in children and ≥ 60 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ in adults, must be reported by physicians and laboratories within 1 working day. All other elevated blood lead levels must be reported within 5 working days. Laboratories must report all non-elevated results < 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ in children and < 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ in adults at least once every month.

What Changes Were Made to the Lead Poisoning Reporting Rule?

Clinical laboratory directors are now required to report all blood lead tests results. The previous rule required the reporting of only elevated blood lead levels, which were ≥ 10 micrograms per deciliter of blood or greater ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$). Requiring laboratory directors to report all blood lead results to the ADHS enables the ADHS to assess disease prevalence rates and screening rates to characterize the scope of the lead poisoning problem in Arizona and thus to identify risk areas and design effective prevention programs. Physicians still report only elevated blood lead levels, as in the previous rule.

The adult blood lead level that is reportable by physicians is now 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$. The previous rule required the reporting of all elevated blood lead levels of ≥ 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$. The ADHS made this change in response to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's identification of 25 micrograms per deciliter of blood as the level of concern for adults. Although physicians are no longer required to report adult lead level results of less than 25 micrograms per deciliter of blood, the ADHS still receives this information from clinical laboratory directors for tracking purposes.

