

**THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX:
HOW TO INCREASE BLOOD LEAD TESTING
AMONG CHILDREN**

THE REQUIREMENTS

- NY State Law requires that every child in NY be tested for lead with a blood test at or around ages 1 & 2 and whenever a potential lead hazard has been identified
- Only about 65% - 70% of 1 and 2 year olds are tested though



WHERE DOES TESTING TAKE PLACE?


- At the primary care practice (specimen sent to lab or run via POC analyzer)
- At a lab in the same health facility
- At an off-site lab
- In other settings



POTENTIAL BARRIERS AT EACH SITE

- At the primary care practice (specimen sent to lab or run via POC analyzer)
 - Insufficient staffing/time to draw blood specimens in a busy practice
 - Time needed to run a sample using POC analyzer
 - Need to report results if using POC analyzer
- At a lab blood drawing station in the same facility
 - Patients leave without going to the blood drawing station
- At an off-site lab blood drawing station
 - Patients don't get to the lab immediately, forget or lose lab requisition

WHICH KIDS ARE AT HIGHEST RISK OF NOT BEING TESTED?

- Kids who miss regularly scheduled health supervision visits
 - Kids who are behind on immunizations
 - Kids whose medical providers don't think lead poisoning is important
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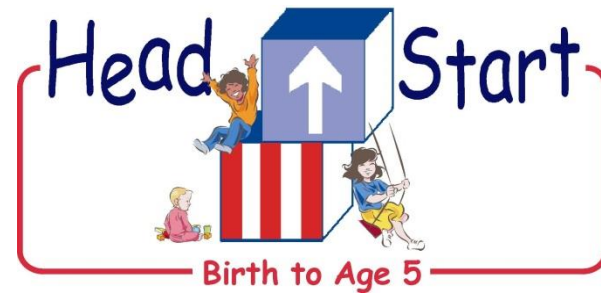
INCENTIVES FOR PRACTICES TO IMPROVE TESTING RATES

- Primary care medical home financial incentives
- Pay for performance incentives from insurers
- Insurers anxious to reach QARR guidelines




TESTING IN NON-TRADITIONAL SETTINGS

- WIC offices
- Head Start centers
- Health fairs
- Health department walk-in centers



ISSUES AFFECTING ABILITY TO TEST IN NON-TRADITIONAL SETTINGS

- Regulations governing where testing can be done and by whom
 - Sustainability/funding
 - Lab support
 - Reporting requirements
 - Notification of PCP
 - Responsibility for follow-up of elevated levels
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NEW IDEAS TO INCREASE TESTING

- Use of care coordinators in practices to:
 - Identify kids overdue for testing
 - Ensure that they get tested
- Peer advocates
 - To reach parents in community settings and urge them to have their children tested
- Centralized reminder-recall at the state level
 - NYSDOH has the potential to do robocalls to families with children who have not been tested
- Centralized reminder-recall at the county level
 - Reminder notices to families

**Do you have other ideas?
We would love to hear them!**

